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D-DAY ON IMPORTS

By PETER DESIRA

A decision on the strong push by National League clubs to increase the number of imported players is to be made this month.

• *Former Queensland youth representstive Glenn Archer of Grange Thistle was one of a group of Queenslanders who met Franz Beckenbauer (left) on a memorable trip to West Germany. See GEOFF STEAD'S report, Page 9.*

But the signs are that the push will be defeated, according to NSL chairman Sam Papasavas, who is among those opposing the move.

The stand by the NSL chairman has however surprised NSL vice-president Tony Kovac, who like Papasavas is a member of the ASF executive committee.

Kovac, who also serves on the NSL board of management, said: "We were asked by all the eight Melbourne NSL clubs in Melbourne in a meeting in December to push for an increase and I would hope that the ASF executive is realistic in accepting this request.

"If one looks at the situation logically, it is easy to see that there are not enough good young players coming through and we still need overseas players to be allowed in."

Papasavas said: "The Australian Soccer Federation executive committee will make the decision but I know of several clubs who don't want to increase the number of overseas players coming into the country.

"Keeping the number of imports low is the only way to force the clubs to give the up-and-coming local youngsters a chance to prove themselves at top level."

The ASF has been reducing the number of imports annually starting with four in 1980 to the present one new import allowed per club this season.

And for clubs to be allowed to register a new overseas player this year it must not have more than two other temporary visa players already on its books.

"The present policy is working as most of the best players in the country are locally born players, not ones imported from overseas," Papasavas said.

Several clubs have complained that the shortage of good players because of the ban on imports has inflated the transfer market but Papasavas disputes that line of thought.

"The inflated market has been brought about by the greed of some clubs and it is only happening in Melbourne. The prices for players are not as high in Sydney. In fact they are about half the prices being bandied about here.

"Jim Patikas, one of the top players in Sydney is an example. He was signed by Sydney Olympic for $30,000 two years ago but moved to Sydney Croatia for around $22,000.

"It is the same with player wages, with Sydney's level being a lot lower than Melbourne's.

"Regardless of whether we let more imports in, the top players in the country would still command the big transfer fees."

EDITORIAL

Restrictions strangle clubs

Top-level soccer exists in Australia because we still have some fans willing to pay at the gate, and because of a hard nucleus of people who love the sport and are willing to give it money transfusions.

They are squashed beneath the backsides of those who sit on top espousing undergraduate ideals and theories.

One such theory is that we must restrict imports to force our clubs to promote young, local players.

To that end, we are stuck with a quota of one new import player per club this year.

And crowds have been decreasing steadily over the past five years, right across the board, with the only respite being provided by the NSL finals series last October.

Transfer fees have reached ridiculous heights for very good reason. We simply do not have enough good players, so the few we have are priced highly because the club concerned does not really want to sell them, but if forced to, wants enough cash not only to replace them, but also to ease their own financial burden, caused partly by the decline in attendances.

The cost of importing a player is lower than buying one here.

Most clubs are starting to crack under the burden of accumulated debts, affiliation fees owed from last year and due for this year. Gate receipts cover only a fraction of each club's operating costs, yet the players demand more and more money.

And on top of it all, we have an import quota which raises transfer fees, holds down the playing standard and thus reduces attendances.

Is it any wonder that no-one wants to be a club president? How many of the faithful have seen their fellows plunge into debt or even lose their houses because they've guaranteed bank loans which the club has been unable to repay?

Those at the top can be as pious as they like about "our magnificent Aussie-born players" but they don't have to pay the bill. If we condone conditions which will send clubs to the wall, we will see those magnificent boys playing in the paddocks.

Let the powers that be set certain standards for imported players — let those players be no lower than European Second Division standard, for example.

That is sufficient.

We do not live in a dictatorship, although in soccer one might be misled into thinking so.

A new influx of imports — let's see more from the continent and South America — would increase the supply to meet the demand, and thus reduce prices of our precious youngsters and at least make it possible for them to switch clubs when they feel they must.

It would also, hopefully, bring back some of our lost spectators.

Had it not been for our import quota, we would have seen many players of high standard coming here, especially this year, as financial conditions for players in many parts of the continent, particularly Yugoslavia, are not as good as they are here.

Good local players always have forced their way into senior sides on merit — Perin, Warren, Johnston, Vojtek, the Nyskohus brothers, Curran, Baartz, DeMarchi, Davidson, Xanthopoulos, Milisavljevic, Selemidis, need I go on? If a local player isn't up to the required standard he shouldn't be there, and if he is, he's doing a disservice to the paying spectator who demands value for money.

We didn't have an import quota in 1977, the first year of the NSL, yet even then 131 of the players used were locals and most of the others were migrants who had played here for years.

If Italy, England, West Germany and Greece see merit in importing players from abroad, then surely the need is greater in Australia.

Clearly, it is in the interests of all clubs that the import market be thrown open, within the constraints of the players' standard.

The clubs themselves can make it happen.

Although ASF officials have said they will vote against any such move, the decision is not theirs, but the clubs'.

The clubs make up the State federations. The boards of the State federations, representing those clubs, can direct which way their ASF delegates should vote.

The NSL clubs will vote for import relaxation, so if the clubs at State federation level muster their resources, they could easily push it through.

Finally, the import issue is not, of course, the be-all and end-all. To save money, clubs need to look at all aspects of their operation — players' wages, signing-on fees, and the costs involved in the competition of which they are a part.

OI VEI!

Australia's main challenger in this month's World Youth Cup elimination series in Sydney, Israel, is in tatters.

The team they were planning to send to Australia is no more; their coach and eight players have all been suspended.

What happened was that before Christmas the Israeli Football Association sent their Youth team to a famous West German training centre for a week.

And there, it appears, the boys decided to be boys.

According to a commission of inquiry, several of the players had a brush with the law because of shoplifting from supermarkets.

Others committed the lesser crimes of partying and gambling.

Their wages of sin: five players have been banned indefinitely, three others for a year and coach Dror Kashtan is also out for 12 months from the international team.

All this just about removes Israel as a threat to Australia's chances.

Now, if we could only pin something on the New Zealanders. — ANDREW DETTRE

NSL appearance records, p. 8

The young Roos, p. 4

Hills are alive, p. 11

Spurs, Udinese here?

A series between Spurs, Udinese and the Socceroos is likely to precede the proposed international tournament here in June-July.

Peter Sheean, head of Australian Soccer Federation Marketing Ltd., is in Europe trying to finalise contracts for both tournaments.

The first would take place in May, with the three teams playing each other on Wednesday and Saturday nights so as not to interfere with the NSL season.

The NSL hopes to get about $100,000 from the tournament, in compensation for reduced gate receipts. The league argues that fans won't go to league games during this period if they are paying high admission prices to see Spurs and Udinese.

If the May series does not come off, Melbourne will host a match between Engladn's Chelsea and Victoria, promoted by the Victorian Soccer Federation.

The June-July tournament would feature Arsenal or Aston Villa from England, Olympiakos or Panathinaikos from Greece and perhaps Fiorentina from Italy, all playing against each other and the Socceroos.

ASF Marketing Ltd is anxious to recoup a loss of about $200,000 on its tournament last year, between Juventus, Iraklis, Manchester United, Australia, Nottingham Forest and Glasgow Rangers.

At least the fans would profit. Udinese features $4 million Brazilian star Zico and Spurs boast Osvaldo Ardiles, Glenn Hoddle, Ray Clemence and Garth Crooks.

Budget ads, p.11

"Soccer Action" today introduces "Budget Ads" — your chance to reach the soccer market with anything from second-hand soccer balls to club functions.

- You can advertise anything you like in "Budget Ads". Just fill in the coupon on page 11 if we can be of service to you.

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"Budget Ads" — on page 11 of this issue.

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Xanthopoulos out to prove Hellas wrong

By LAURIE SCHWAB

Arthur Xanthopoulos would love to help Heidelberg-Alexander beat Hellas!

"I want to prove that Hellas was wrong in discarding me," he said this week.

"The best place to do that is at Heidelberg. They would really feel it if we beat them and if I played well."

Xanthopoulos's transfer however, is being held up by Hellas' request for a $10,000 transfer fee.

Xanthopoulos 28, believes that because he has given Hellas 15 years of loyal service, the club should give him a free transfer. He has applied for a tribunal hearing in the hope of having the transfer fee reduced.

Green Gully coach Bobby McLachlan offered $5000 for the skilful sweeper after watchng him play for Heidelberg in a practice match at St. Albans, but Hellas turned down the offer.

Xanthopoulos's preference is Heidelberg, not only because of the traditional Hellas-Heidelberg rivalry but also because his cousin, Theo Selemidis, is the Heidelberg captain.

If the transfer comes off, Xanthopoulos probably will play sweeper, with Charlie Yankos switchng to the stopper's position, since Don Macleod who has played stopper until now, is on the transfer list. Macleod apparently asked for a big pay rise, which Heidelberg could not aford.

Xanthopoulos emerged from the Hellas juniors, and played his first senior game just as he turned 16, because John Bedford was out injured. He became a regular in the end-of-season interstate Cup competition, between the top four teams from Melbourne and the top four from Sydney, playing alongside Steve Walker in the middle of the defence.

He was injured in 1983 and when he brought up the subject of a new contract he was fobbed off by the committeemen.

"They said they were worried that I might not play again, and they suggested I should have a few runs in the reserves to make sure the injury had cleared up," Xathopoulos recalls.

"I trusted them, but in the meantime, the transfer season closed, and when it came down to the contract, they said they'd give me only half pay because I'd been injured. I wasn't happy with that, and I really think it was just an excuse to get rid of me.

"In fact, that's what happened later. The Hellas president, Leo Aneakis, told me that the coach, Len McKendry, didn't want me. I said OK, give me a free transfer, but Leo said no, they wanted money for me, even though I was no longer needed.

"Perhaps they would let me go cheaply if I were to go to a club other than Heidelberg. Perhaps they're worried that if I play well for Heidelberg — particularly against Hellas — questions will be asked by the supporters."

Xanthopoulos and Jim Kondarios, then of Footscray J.U.S.T., were the centre backs of the Victorian State team in 1976, playing against Velez Mostar (2-2), South Australia (1-2), Tottenham Hotspur (1-3), Bologna (0-4), the Italian Army (1-2) and Atromitos (1-1). — LAURIE SCHWAB

Former SM-Hellas captain Arthur Xanthopoulos

Mr Nice Guy to boost Makedonia

Bill Marray

They call Bill Murray soccer's nice guy, but that tag does not say enough about the relentless way he pursues soccer excellence.

His influence already is evident at Makedonia in the way the team is playing. The players who struggled to find their best form last year are bubbling over with confidence — even Gary Cole is looking good again — and team organisation never had been better. We speak here about their form against Hellas (1-0).

All that despite the absence of Zarko Odzakov, Claude Lucchesi, George Campbell and Ljube Petrovski who all are on the transfer list.

Murray, 38, was recruited by Makedonia because of his success in taking Box Hill from First Division into the State League and also developing so many fine young players along the way. Three of them — Mike Valentine, Scott Patterson and John Gabrielson play for Heidelberg.

But his soccer experience goes back much further. Born in Dundee, Scotland, he played junior league soccer there for North End before coming to Melbourne, where he played as a defender for Essendon Lions for three years, Box Hill (one year), Sunshine City (one year) and Frankston (three years).

He was assistant to coach Fred Bunce at Frankston in 1979, before moving to Box Hill where he coached for five years.

Murray is a qualified engineer but now works as a schoolteacher.

Makedonia came to Murray when the club decided to open its coaching job to applications. The previous coach, Frank McAldeer, applied with the rest, but it was Murray who was given the nod.

He ses the job as "an exciting new challenge" and is confident his players have what it takes to challenge seriously for the 1984 national title — LAURIE SCHWAB.

Soccer lags in coaching

Soccer lags way behind most other sports in the number of coaches who have qualified under the national coaching accreditation scheme.

The figures, covering the period from July 1, 1983, to June 30, 1984, were printed in a recent issue of "Sports Coach", published by the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation in Perth.

Of the 23,705 nationally accredited coaches in Australia to that time, only 240 of them were soccer coaches.

Sports with more coaches, and their numbers, were: netball (670), athletics (1774), basketball (1847), gymnastics (1551), rowing (520), bowls (755), hockey (1564), rugby league (1931), softball (459), tenpin bowling (309), underwater (255), volleyball (389), lawn tennis (1087), Australian Rules (2209), squash (334), judo (602), cricket (1607), baseball (412), rugby union (581), swimming (1260), boxing (532), touch (266) and surf life saving (242).

Soccer can take comfort from the fact that it did manage to rate higher than fencing, archery, trampolining, croquet (only just), roller skating, parachuting, orienteering, billiards and Kendo Renmei (??). — LAURIE SCHWAB

Veselin Vojnovic

Polonia crisis: 10 men missing

NSW State League with ALEX VESIC

Polonia is in deep trouble and Veselin Vojnovic, its new coach, has inherited the whole thing. With the exception of Henjek Sobczyk the whole Polonia side of last year has gone "bush".

In fact **Ian Barker** has joined Manly, **Fogarty** went to Blacktown, **Divani** and **Pratt** are still "shopping" while **Anton Galas** is in Poland.

So much for the backline. **Rasmussen** and **Lumsdaine** have not returned, **Kowalczyk** and **Uvcarek** are still in Poland, while **Wojtek Nowak** is sitting on the sidelines and not too eager to start training.

TEN PLAYERS OUT! That would have to be a record. No wonder that Uruguayan Auburn dished out a hammering to Polonia in the first round of the Ampol Cup.

If things don't improve Chopin Park way, I am afraid Polonia is in for one hell of a shock this year.

* * *

Fairy Meadow is the newcomer to the League. An unknown quantity with one outing so far, and against Avala at that, in the Ampol Cup.

From the reports received Fairy Meadow was the better side and certainly didn't deserve to lose. On that score alone Fairy Meadow shou: oe the team to watch, particularly at Corrimal!

* * *

Avala has a new coach in Vic Dalgleigh and I dare say that on all information received he is the best-paid coach in the State League. Dalgleish coached Ku-Ring-Gai last season with some success and is on a "must succeed" ticket at Avala.

However, it is not going to be that easy.

Peter Ahrens, Gruja Vujinovic and **Nikola Duvnjak** have not been sighted yet and that is a setback to Avala's plans.

The acquisition of **Ray Carney** from Auburn should boost Avala's forward strength, while **Brown, Milne, Nedic, Kodor** and **Mackenzie** should add stability.

John Lembryk, back ig defence, could easily find himself up front if **Da Silva** or Ko-

Good one, Greg

Greg House couldn't have wished for a better debut when he came on as a substitute for Melbourne Croatia against Box Hill in the Buffalo Gold Cup.

Leading only 1-0, Croatia was geting a bit worried, since in their last game, the Hillmen had been thrashed 4-0 by Green Gully.

Player-coach Tommy Cumming took a chance in replacing midfielder Jozo Antolovic, who had scored from a penalty, with House in the second half.

Near the end, House raced away on a through ball and as calmly as you like, stroked the ball across the path of goalkeeper Robert Harrison, into the far corner, to ensure Croatia of the points.

House was bought from State League club Knox City for only $1000 — the maximum stipulated in his contract.

He had been somewhat of a sensation in 1984, scoring 16 goals.

The 24-year-old has a spectacular, tearaway style when he's in form, and should provide Croatia fans with lots of entertainment if he cements a regular place in the team.

He started with the Mooroolbark juniors as an under 14 player, then went to Melbourne where he played under 15, coached by Bill Allison, and also was chosen for the State under 15 squad.

Next stop was Croydon City, before his five seasons with Knox.

His goals total of 16 last year matched a previous total, scored for Knox while the club was still in the Second Division.

— LAURIE SCHWAB.

Croatia recruit Greg House (right) pursues Morwell Falcons star Effie Cassar.

Tuffield US-bound

• Fawkner (Vic) striker Ian Tuffield (pictured below) is "98 percent" sure that he'll try his luck in the US this year, and that's bad news for Footscray J.U.S.T., which had hoped to sign him.

Tuffield tried out with the Toronto Blizzard in 1980, but the club had a full quota of foreign players at the time.

He has friends in California and intends to go there in April and try again.

Steve Short's wife dies

• Cathy Short, wife of Green Gully player Steve Short, died suddenly last week. "Soccer Action" joins with many, many soccer followers in expressing its deepest condolences to Steve and his young daughter Aimee.

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Krncevic wants to play but Arok says no

Eddy Krncevic in the colors of Duisburg

National coach Frank Arok has ruled Eddie Krncevic out of contention for Australia's World Cup qualifying matches late this year.

Krncevic, contacted in West Germany before joining Cercle Bruges in Belguim, said he was extremely disappointed that Arok did not contact him while the Socceroos were in Europe last December.

"I went to a lot of trouble fixing up a contract that allowed me to play for Australia. It took two weeks of negotiations with Duisburg just to get that clause put into the contract," Krncevic said.

Arok said it would have been easier for Krncevic to contact him (Arok) in Europe as the Australians had a very tight schedule on tour.

"I couldn't justify using Krncevic as he never has been part of our team and he probably doesn't know most of the players. It's been quite a while since he represented Australia, "Arok said.

One must really marvel, we suppose, at the glowing talents of the present Socceroos if they all can do better than Krncevic.

"David Mitchell and Alan Davidson — the two overseas-based players I do intend to use — have both been members of the squad in the past, so that's a different matter," Arok said.

Krncevic, who has played 33 games for Australia, transferred from Marconi to Dinamo Zagreb for $30,000 and then to MSV Duisburg for $40,000, the maximum stipulated in his contract.

His transter fee to Cercle Bruges has not been disclosed.

He was happy to make the move however, as he was playing in an unaccustomed midfield position in West Germany. Bruges has given him the chance to return to the forward line.

Ironically, when we rang Krncevic in Duisburg, Marconi's Bertie Mariani answered the phone. He was there for the christening of Krncevic's son, and was planning to go on to the US to study sports psychology at Arizona State. — LAURIE SCHWAB

Israel our Waterloo?

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The fact that none of the present Socceroos has played in a senior winning side against Israel underlines just how difficult it will be for Australia to overcome its traditional rival in the World Cup qualifying series in October.

The last time Australia beat Israel was in Beersheba in 1980, during the Socceroos' world tour under coach Rudi Gutendorf.

Gary Cole scored the only goal of the game from a penalty, and Australia's line-up, with substitutes, was:

Allan Maher — Steve Hogg, Murray Barnes, Ivo Prskalo, Alan Davidson — Tony Henderson (Mark Jankovics 26th), John Yzendoorn, Ken Boden — Peter Sharne, Gary Cole (Theo Selemidis 81st), Eddie Krncevic.

The only present Socceroo who has played in a winning team against Israel is Tommy McCulloch (Marconi) — and that was in the 1983 World Youth Championship qualifying games. Australia lost the first of those encounters 1-3 but won the return match 2-1, with Rod Brown and David Lowe scoring the goals.

All results between the two countries:

SENIORS

1969 (World Cup) in Tel Aviv: Israel 1 Australia 0.
in Sydney: Australia 1 (Watkiss) Israel 1.
1970 in Tel Aviv: Israel 0 Australia 1 (Richards).
1971 in Brisbane: Australia 2 (Tolson, Alston) Israel 2.
in Sydney: Australia 1 (Ainslie) Israel 0.
in Melbourne: Australia 1 (Baartz) Israel 3.
1974 in Tel Aviv: Israel 2 Australia 1 (Mackay).
1976 in Tel Aviv: Australia 1 (Wilson) Israel 1.
1977 in Melbourne: Australia 1 (Ollerton) Israel 1.
In Sydney: Australia 1 (Shani o.g.) Israel 1.
1980 in Beersheba: Israel 0 Australia 1 (Cole pen).

YOUTH

1979 (WYC qualifiers) in Asunction, Paraguay: Israel 0 Australia 0.
Israel 0 Australia 0.
1980 in Yehoud: Israel 2 Australia 1 (Daunt).
in Yehoud: Israel 2 Australia 1 (Lee)
1983 (WYC qualifiers) in San Jose, Costa Rica: Israel 3 Australia 1 (R. Brown), Australia 2 (Brown, Lowe) Israel 1.

Australia's World Cup qualifying programme this year:

Sept 29: v New Zealand in NZ.

October 8: v Israel in Israel.

October 20: v Israel in Australia.

October 23: v Taiwan in Australia.

October 27: v Taiwan in Australia.

November 3: v New Zealand in Australia.

The winner of the Oceanie tournament will meet the runner-up of European Group Seven, which comprises Scotland, Spain, Iceland and Wales. That team is likely to be Spain.

Brown for Saints?

St George Budapest has offered $16,000 for Marconi's unsettled striker, Rod Brown.

Budapest argues that the price is twice as much as Marconi paid Auburn for Brown, but Marconi wants $35,000.

That seems to be the going price for any well-known player. Marshall Soper, who wants to join Budapest from Sydney Olympic, also is quoted at $35,-000, but has said he will seek a tribunal hearing to get the price down.

Soper has told Budapest he will meet the club's condition of moving from Newcastle to Sydney if he succeeds in getting his transfer.

Rod Brown

National coach Frank Arok, who is boss of Budapest, is anxious that all unsettled members of his Socceroo squad settle into a routine of playing and training as quickly as possible.

"There isn't that much time for us," he said.

Meanwhile, the tribunal has reduced the transfer fee of APIA's Ian Gray from $25,000 to $22,000 — not much help to Gray, but in line with all clubs' need for cash.

LAURIE SCHWAB

Alan Davidson in the snow at Nottingham Forest. Picture by LES SHORROCK

Bad break for Davo

Alan Davidson's future with Nottingham Forest may be in doubt after he reportedly collapsed in a reserve match against Sheffield Wednesday.

Davidson said in a phone call from England this week that he merely received a blow which broke his nose.

However, in the light of Press reports from England, it seems Davidson was trying to play down the incident.

Davidson may have broken his nose, but according to the Press reports, the blow caused a collapse similar to those he suffered twice in Australia last year.

He was to have a series of medical tests and brain scans this week, and is known to be in medication.

Davidson and his family both have made it clear that he never had suffered such problems before being knocked out by a blow to the head in a match between Hellas and Sydney City Hakoah at Middle Park last April.

He subsequently collapsed again in Hobart, in a match between the Socceroos and Tasmania, after heading a wet, heavy ball which had been kicked in by the goalkeeper.

And there were reports of a collapse on Forest's recent tour of Saudi Arabia. Davidson's version of that incident was that he found it hard to breathe in the humidity and altitude at wich the game was played.

Davidson transferred to Forest for $30,000 late last year.

He said by phone he was keeping fit in the Forest reserves, along with some other senior plyers, while the bulk of the senior squad was given time off to go to Spain, as the big freeze in England had caused the postponement of a number of Forest matches.

Young Roos incomplete but they can still make it: Lambropoulos

By STEPHEN DETTRE

If Australia's young soccer players have one big worry at present it is whether to choose a career or to choose soccer.

While maybe not keeping them awake at night, it's a problem that has been made all the more difficult by the success of players such as Craig Johnston, Eddie Krncevic and Alan Davidson in Europe.

As Sydney Olympic's 18-year-old defender Alex Lambropoulos said, their success has made a career in soccer even more tempting, because of the prospective rewards.

"I've just finished my higher school certificate and I'm looking for a job," he said.

"I'm torn between a career and soccer and I guess the best would be something that would allow me time for soccer."

Lambropoulos edged his way into Sydney Olympic's first team last year, playing a few games on the back line and showing enough talent to suggest he has a first future.

Olympic coach Manfred Schaefer believes Lampropoulos is the natural successor to Mike Coady or Martyn Rogers, both now back in Britain.

But he added that Lambropoulos still had a lot to learn.

Lampropoulos himself realises the situation.

"I've got a chance now to establish myself in the team. I've got to take it, and I'm willing to work for it."

He said getting that defensive position was his number one priority this year.

"Number two is working my way into the (Australian) Youth team.

"At present I'm only in the stand-by squad," he said.

Lambropoulos said he was disappointed at being left out of the main squad, but hadn't given up hope of winning his way back into favor.

"I reckon the team could've probably done with a few more players like (Pedro) Ricoy and myself, who have gone through a year in the NSL and have become a little tougher," he said.

He said he was still confident the youth team could win through from the Oceania Group to the finals in the Soviet Union.

"I still they they'll get through. There's enough talent there to do it.

"I know I haven't given up hope of making the team once it qualifies for the Soviet Union."

Lampropoulos is one of those many thousands of Australian players who started socer almost from the stage he started school.

"I started as a six-year-old, and have been playing ever since," he said.

He admitted that in those 12 years he had thought of quitting the game.

"A couple of times I thought of giving it away ... I just got sick of it like a lot of my mates.

"But then I just gritted my teeth and carried on. I don't know why. I reckon it's because I love the game so much."

He said that it was the year-in battle through competitions at an early age which took its toll on friends.

"I think a better time to start competitive soccer would be about 10 or 11 years.

"Before that, maybe associations should just organise social matches or let the kids muck about ... maybe give them some guidance with skills and things like that.

But not so much emphasis on competition and winning at such an early age.

"It takes its toll."

Lampropoulos said he felt his greatest asset was his physical strength but he is trying to work on other aspects of his game.

"I like to play the game hard, but I also love it when we can sweep through the opposition with one of our passing movements ... I love to watch the ball players."

He said the 1984 season taught him that a player had to be physically tough and mentally alert to survive in the NSL.

"I've been working on my fitness and my speed," he said.

"I've been trying to improve my heading and my turning speed — they're essentials for a defender."

He said he had learnt a great deal during his first year with the NSL.

"Funnily enough, you learn almost as much from your opponents as you do from friends and advisors.

"I value the advice and help of Tony Dakos very much, but I reckon I also learnt quite a bit from Sydney City's John Kosmina, just by playing against him.

Lambropoulos rates Dakos as one of the best defenders in Australia.

"He's composed, determined and tremendously skilled. It won't be long before he's in the national team."

He said one of Dako's biggest problems was that he didn't talk enough during matches.

"He doesn't make himself heard ... so I tend to do the talking at the back.

"Mind you, I still reckon nobody talks as much on the field as Sydney City's (goalkeeper) Tony Pezzano."

Lambropoulos said that he was thinking about taking a trip to Greece for a holiday at the end of 1985.

"While I'm there I might see if I can arrange a trial with one of the clubs.

"It might be worth a chance.

"But you never know what might happen during the coming season," he said.

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Five games in 10 days is lunacy!

Let me sound an early warning about the forthcoming World Youth Cup matches in Sydney.

Whoever drew up the match play schedule, here in Australia or in Zurich, reveals a staggering ignorance of football matters.

The teams — all teams — are asked to play five matches in 10 days, between February 15 and 24.

On three occasions the teams will have one rest day between games; once they will luxuriate in two rest days.

How on earth can we seriously expect young players, in the middle of summer, to have the stamina and the strength for such a murderous program?

At the last World Cup in Spain in 1982, Brazil, for instance, played its three Round one matches in 10 days, then had a spell of eight days before — in five more days — playing two Round Two games.

All told, five matches in a leisurely 22-day period. And that by Brazil's senior, mature, full-blooded professionals!

This World Youth Cup elimination series will go to the team with the most in physical reserves, suffering the least injuries to key players.

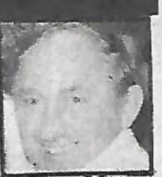
However, it's almost certain that by the fourth match day, on February 22, we will be seeing some dead tired teams struggling to last the 90 minutes.

If so, the expected decider, on the last day, between Australia and New Zealand, could well turn into a lottery: the luckier or less exhausted team may win.

That, of course, happens in soccer anyway all the time but it's not often that a tournament is actually designed that way.

Mind you, coach Jimmy Shoulder coud have luck on his side this time. Although he appears to have committed some kind of a blunder by bypassing some brilliant, NSL-based youngsters in order to include eight AIS players in his squad — his Australian team will be still very warm favorites to win the tournament, because of the scandal involving the Israeli team (see page one).

THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN



Forget the gloom. Enjoy!

This year will make or break soccer in Australia — so you're being told, once again. For about the 100th time.

I've heard this, of course, just about every year since 1950 when first the Orrs and Storeys, then the Andy Burtons, Walter Sternbergs, Jim Bayuttis and Bill Walkleys gave us the same spiel.

Every ASF and State president able to put two words together — and we did have some — has rattled off a litany of promises about this time of the year, basing soccer's pending ascension to heaven on faith, hope and charity.

Then, of course, nothing ever happened; the particular years in question did not make or break soccer. We have had our ups and downs, fleeting triumphs and harsh setbacks — without materially altering the course of events.

Soccer in Australia will survive the critics and the cynics; with luck, it may even survive the innocent believers, though this is less certain.

If we do reach Mexico in 1986, soccer's very brief glory will pass fast, like a high fever. It did so for New Zealand, too, after 1982.

If, on the other hand, we fail to make the finals, we will plod on bearing the grin of people accustomed to adversities.

Much the same applies to the NSL — pardon me, the Olympic Airways National Soccer League (This is the third name of this body since 1977 . . .)

We may have a few thousand more or less spectators, a slight fluctuation in the number of goals and levels of play — but, on the whole, the NSL will be much the same as last year and next year.

So 1985 won't make or break soccer. And if you are prepared to believe this, you may have quite an enjoyable season ahead of you.

BADMINTON, BOWLS BUT NO SOCCER

Soccer seems to have missed a good opportunity for considerable public exposure by not squeezing onto the program of the Australia Games.

The schedule included some 'major' sports such as athletics and swimming as well as a number of activities which would be better described as recreations.

Elderly, tottering ladies and gentlemen on a manicured green were engaged in lawn bowls; we had girls in that quaint sport, netball; then lifesaving, badminton and just about everything else this side of pie-eating.

A few soccer matches could have been added to the program — and probably would have been the major crowd attractions.

On the whole, the inaugural Australia Games, from the very opening ceremony, were a poorly attended mish-mash of sports.

So soccer would have had a chance to capture some of the limelight.

Do racell, if you will, that a the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics soccer was the biggest crowd drawcard, notwithstanding the local-patriotic euphoria with the American swimmers, track stars or programmed gymnastic robots.

Maybe the organisers of the Australia Games didn't want their 'Australian' sports upstaged by soccer, or maybe, they haven't been approached . . .

— Is it possible that neither the ASF nor the NSL, let alone the upmarket-oriented West Nally organisation deemed it worthwhile to fight for soccer's inclusion? Then why not Victoria which, in recent years, so often showed such an enterprise in staging their own promotions?

MERLION CUP, NSL CHAMPIONSHIPS...

Experience galore in 'Roo squad

John Panagis

Let's look at the young lions who carry Australian hopes into this month's World Youth Cup qualifying games at St. George Stadium in Sydney:

1. **Paul Jones:** Goalkeeper, 5ft 11ins, 81kgs, A.I.S. A West Australian under 16 and youth representative, Paul has been at the Australian Institute of Sport since January 1984. Toured Holland and West Germany with A.I.S. and is an Australian under 23 international, having played in the Merlion Tournament in Singapore. Noted for his great agility and anticipatiuon.

2. **Robert Hooker:** Fullback, 5ft 10ins, 75kgs, A.I.S. Robert had an outstanding 1984 season starring for the National Youth League champion A.I.S. and turning in exceptional displays in Europe with A.I.S. and in Singapore with the Australian U/23 team. Quick and a good user of the ball, his tenacity and marking ability make him an excellent defender.

3. **John Gregson:** Defender, 6ft 1ins, 80kgs, Melita. After playing most of the season in the National Youth League, John came to prominance in the Merlion Tournament with his mature and assured displays in his first taste of international football. Very powerfully built, he can play at the back or in midfield.

4. **Andrew Bernal:** Defender, 5ft 11ins, 74kgs, A.I.S. Having just completed his second year at the Institute of Sport, Andrew is one of the finest players ever to attend the Institute. His speed, powerful tackling, ability in the air and strong personality on the field have made him a target for NSL and European clubs following outstanding performances in Europe and in the Merlion Tournament where he was selected by the media in their "Best XI".

5. **Aki Kotzamichalis:** Defender, 6ft 3ins, 84kgs, Melbourne Croatia. A regular Victorian youth representative over the past few years, Aki is another player who tasted the big-time for the first time in the Merlion Tournament. His height makes him very effective in the air, but he is deceptively quick and possesses an excellent touch for such a big man.

6. **Alex Tobin:** Defender, 6ft 3 ins, 81kgs, Adelaide City. Able to play at fullback or in central defence, Alex was a regular in Adelaide City's NSL team throughout 1984. Very cool under pressure he always attempts to make good use of the ball and is quick enough to handle speedy forwards.

7. **Alex Bundalo:** Midfield, 5ft 8ins, 70kgs, Wollongong City. An ever-present in the NSL in 1984, Alex was able to make his mark despite being in a team which struggled all season. Another who made his international debut for the under 23's at the Merlion Tournament he is a clever and busy player with excellent touch and very good passing skills.

8. **John Panagis:** Midfield, 5ft 9ins, 76kgs, West Adelaide. A regular member of the youthful West Adelaide NSL team, John's all-action displays have brought him acclaim and a number of goals in the NSL. Had an excellent Merlion tournament where his powerful running and non-stop performances contributed much to the success of the Australian team.

9. **Peter Petkovski:** Striker, 5ft 11ins, 77kgs, St. George, An NSL player since he was 16 and a member of the 1983 St. George championship winning team, Peter is an experienced player who leads the attack well and has a proven goalscoring record. Strong and mobile he is a good reader of the game.

10. **Louis Hristodoulou:** Striker, 5ft 10ins, 70kgs, A.I.S. The baby of the squad, Lou is only just 17 but has already demonstrated his great maturity and playing ability with consistently high-class performances in the NSL Youth League and outstanding displays during the AIS tour of

Alex Tobin

Peter Petkovski

Possessing excellent change of pace and good close skills he was a regular goalscorer throughout 1984.

11. **Chris Kalantzis:** Winger, 6ft, 77kgs, Sydney Olympic. Hailed as one of the most exciting young players to emerge in Australia, Chris burst on to the NSL scene in 1984 where his aggressive dribbling and running and powerful shooting made him a great favourite with Olympic's thousands of fans. Yet another player with a good goalscoring record.

12. **Michael McLennan:** Fullback, 5ft 8ins, 67kgs, A.I.S. A regular AIS player, "Slick" has developed into a top-class full back able to play on either flank. Did well for AIS in Europe where his speed of recovery and excellent use of the ball were much appreciated.

13. **Sean Ingham:** Winger, 5ft 9 ins, 68kgs, A.I.S. Following a good tour of Europe and fine performances both on the iwng and as striker in the Merlion Tournament, Sean is now realising just what a good player he is. He possesses great acceleration and is very tough and brave.

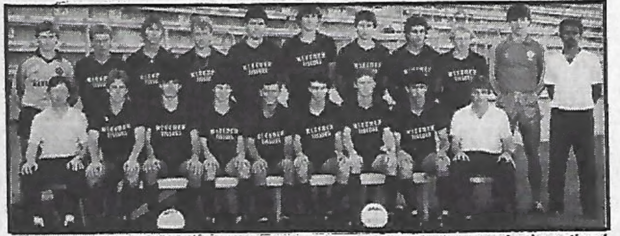
14. **Robert Markovac:** Striker, 6ft, 79kgs, Melbourne Croatia. A strong running and ever-willing player, Robert performed very well in the NSL in his debut year in 1984. Very good in the air and always prepared to work hard for the team, he scored a number of important goals during the season.

15. **Richard Bassingthwaighte:** Midfield, 5ft 10ins, 74kgs, Brisband Lions. Having made his NSL debut at 16 Richard has been plagued by injuries over the past two years, but now has a clean bill of health and is back to his original sharpness. An excellent passer of the ball and very mobile, he benefited greatly from joining the AIS squad on their European tour.

16. **David Sharpe:** Midfield, 5ft 7ins, 67kgs, A.I.S. David is the pocket dynamo of the squad, and his lack of height is more than made up for by his determination and aggression. A tireless worker, his qualities were most appreciated by his team mates in both the European and Merlion Tournament.

17. **John Kanesoulis:** Midfield, 5ft 8 ins, 70kgs, South Melbourne. A member of the 1984 NSL champion, John performed exceptionally well in a team composed of experienced international players. A very busy player, he is always going at the opposition and always looking to support his team mates.

18. **Mirko Runje:** Goalkeeper, 6ft 2ins, 87kgs, Melbourne Croatia. Tall, commanding and agile, Mirko has been the automatic choice for Victorian youth teams for several years and in 1984 shared AIS duties with Paul Jones. Named outstanding goalkeeper of the tournament in the International Culture Cup Youth Tournament held in Dortmund, West Germany in 1984.



• The 1984 Australian Sports Institute players, eight of whom are in the national youth squad. Back row (left to right): Paul Jones, Darren Northam, Sean Greaves, Graham McMillan, Alex Cummings, Thomas Burke, George Kulcsar, Andrew Bernal, Michael McLennan, Mirko Runje, Gajen Prasad (visiting Commonwealth coach). Front row (left to right): Jim Shoulder (head coach), Robert Hooker, Lou Hristodoulou, Warren Spink, David Sharpe, Peter Andrews, Sean Ingham, Carlo Ambrosino, Ron Smith (coach).

Programme for the World Youth Championship qualifying series at St. George Stadium, Sydney:

ROUND 1 — FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15:

4.30 p.m.	Fiji	V	Papua New Guinea
6.15 p.m.	Chinese Taipei	V	Israel
8.15 p.m.	New Zealand	V	Australia

ROUND 2 — SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17:

1.30 p.m.	Papua New Guinea	V	Israel
3 p.m.	Chinese Taipei	V	New Zealand
5 p.m.	Australia	V	Fiji

ROUND 3 — WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20:

4.30 p.m.	New Zealand	V	Papua New Guinea
6.15 p.m.	Israel	V	Fiji
8.15 p.m.	Chinese Taipei	V	Australia

ROUND 4 — FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22:

4.30 p.m.	Fiji	V	Chinese Taipei
6.15 p.m.	Israel	V	New Zealand
8.15 p.m.	Australia	V	Papua New Guinea

ROUND 5 — SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24:

10.00 a.m.	Chinese Taipei	V	Papua New Guinea
1.00 p.m. to 6 p.m.			Ampol Cup finals
7.00 p.m.	Fiji	V	New Zealand
8.45 p.m.	Australia	V	Israel

Oh for the old times

Bring back the good old times! That's the call from about 100 soccer fans who have been writing to Channels 2 and 0/28, asking them to screen skilful matches of the past.

"Australian soccer is getting boring. Dribbling and flair are gone from the game," said John Thompson, a spokesman for the group.

"We want to see some footage of the old matches, but no-one seems willing to screen it.

"Our biggest disappointment concerns Channel 0/28. They've actually cut back their soccer coverage, yet if our own channel isn't willing to help the sport that is followed by most migrants, what hope is there of getting justice?

"We hear that Channel 10 has footage of old German matches, and Channel 2 has film of Australia's 1974 World Cup games. Why don't we get to see some of it — and also some film of the great old players like George Best and Pele?"

Markovac in a quandary

Robert Markovac is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

He can return like the Prodigal Son to Melbourne Croatia where he would however, feel ill at ease after his recent tribunal hearing over a move to Heidelberg.

Or he can let Croatia put him on the transfer list — probably at the price, which no one will pay, particularly Heidelberg which won't have much left after buying George Christopoulos from Canberra.

Both Heidelberg and Markovac thought they would win their case last week.

The tribunal ruled however, that Markovac was a Croatia player.

Markovac quit Croatia late last year. He had been playing without a contract, on a blue form signed by him and by his uncle (not a parent). When Croatia turned down the terms he sought for a contract, he went to Heidelberg.

Believing Markovac to be an amateur player, and therefore a free agent, Heidelberg welcomed a tribunal hearing.

Heidelberg, meanwhile, is up in arms over Makedonia's failure so far to pay the $5000 balance for Gary Cole's transfer fee.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

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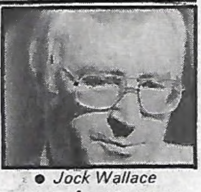
Torna Zico e mette subito la firm

Un Tesser promettente

The Udine daily, "Messaggero Veneto", reports on Australia's game against Udinese. The picture shows (left) Zico guarded by Alex Robertson and Mike O'Shea with (right) Edinho on the run from Graham Jennings.

Let's give England a miss in future

LES MURRAY



● *Jock Wallace*

The Socceroo tour of November and December opened eyes about many things — among them how Australians, or at least a team representing Australian soccer, are viewed in Europe.

And by way of a quick conclusion we can say that the treatment the Aussies received was split evenly between the ill-mannered and patronising in England and the gracious and cordial elsewhere.

Now I'm not sure how much all of this matters, if it matters at all, but it may be true that the status we are given on soccer's established continent is somehow important to our morale as a developing soccer nation.

If so, I suggest that tour matches in England are judiciously avoided in future.

At no time did this become more evident than when the squad visited its other ports of call: Glasgow, Eindhoven and, most particularly, Udine.

In Glasgow, where Australia played the proud and dignified Rangers, there was every hint that the hosts were doing all to ensure that the guests were comfortable and were given the hospitality fitting of a national team.

The hotel the Aussies stayed at was luxurious and comfortable, probably the best on tour. It was the same hotel Juventus or Brazil would have been put up at on a Scottish visit and the Socceroos slept in the same rooms and killed time in the same lounge Di Stefano or Puskas did when that legendary European Cup final was played at Hampden in 1960.

Genial Jock Wallace, the Rangers manager, put his personal touch to the hospitality with a warming, attentive attitude, which included putting in an appearance at the Australian team's late-night dinner at the hotel after the game.

(It was there that he made his memorable quip about David Cooper's devastating two goals which gave Rangers their victory: "I had to substitute him in the second half. He only touched the ball twice and they were both mis-kicks").

Much the same can be said of the team's sojourn in Holland where, despite the fact that the party had to stay in Rotterdam and play in Eindhoven, the accommodation and hospitality were impeccable.

But most outstanding of all was the team's treatment in Udine where the Italians' well-known penchant for formality and cordiality was exhausted to the maximum.

Udinese's secretary met the party at the nearest airport of Venice and accompanied the squad on the coach back to Udine (apologising all the while for the tight comforts of the coach, caused not by the size of the vehicle but rather by the mound of excess baggage the Aussies carried).

That might sound like a small thing but in England for instance there were no secretaries in sight, much less one that would escort the visiting party on a two-hour journey, and Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough, true to form, didn't even turn up for the Australians' game at the City Ground.

But Udinese went the full tilt in hospitality, not the least because the Australian visit generated much media interest in a country where a visiting national team is a visiting national team, no matter whether it comes from Australia, Brazil or South Tonga.

The local sports dailies, such as the "Gazzetta Dello Sport" devoted full-page treats to the game both before and after it and, as we know, the game was televised live throughout Italy.

There were press receptions, formal and informal welcomes with elegantly-clad soccer and civil dignitaries present and courtesy gifts including an etching of the magnificent local Station Friuli in a gold-coated frame surrounding a velvet backdrop.

For the game, played on a Thursday afternoon, about 6,000 locally stationed soldiers were let in free, adding to the sizeable attendance which in the end totalled 23,000.

For the two days the Australian had to kill before their next game, the party was put up in Venice with, I suspect, much if not all of the cost footed by Udinese.

After Udinese's feast of hospitality and the glamour that surrounded the occasion, one was tempted to have preferred all of the tour games to be played in Italy.

Sadly, it was there that the party learned of the ultimate snub yet to come: a game against Tottenham, not at White Hart Lane, no, not even at Upton Park or Loftus Road (where the artificial turf would have solved the problems caused by the incessant rain), but at Tottenham's modest training ground.

It should really not have been such a surprise if one already had been unimpressed by the manner in which we colonials were either snubbed or patronised in England.

For all the Press the Socceroos got in England, they may as well have been a bunch of hippies hitch-hiking unnoticed across Britian.

Even after a convincing win against Manchester City and a well-deserved draw against Notts Forest's best eleven, the local press seemed unmoved and in the scanty reports the papers gave, the tourists were referred to not as Australia or the Australian national team but as "the touring Australians".

It is true of course that in the big, glamorous cloud nine of European football, Australia is indeed a distant and meagre outpost to which no attention is paid, barring reports of European teams going there for post-season hibernation.

Australian soccer, for the Press, is not "good copy" or not yet, anyway.

And, frankly, I wouldn't place any of the blame for the inhospitality on our own organisers either. They were guests, like the rest of the party was, and not hosts. One expects the hosts to have the instinct for hospitality.

In view of all that, and in view of the fact that we already know more about English football than any other, or that we have the least to learn from them, why not side-step England altogether on future tours?

Big freeze a bonus to Olympic

Sydney Olympic, in debt to the tune of $400,000, last week successfully negotiated for the repayments on its $372,000 bank loan to be frozen for three years, which allows Olympic to save $56,000 a year on interest payments alone.

Olympic aims to balance its books on its 1985-86 operations. It has cut expenditure this year by $105,000. Signing-on fees have been drastically reduced and will be scrapped altogether in 1986, which will allow Olympic to save $50,000 on this year's expenditure. That money will be spent on reducing the $372,000 loan.

Olympic's expenditure this year will be $379,000.

The Waterloo Alexandria Businessmen's Club where Olympic's social activities are based, also is in debt. The combined debt of the Businessmen's Club and Olympic is $850,000.

Secretary Tom Doumanis, one of Olympic's new directors, pulls no punches when asked how his club accrued such a debt.

"Put it down to bad administration," said Doumanis.

"But don't worry. Olympic isn't going to fold. We're getting our house back in order and we're here to stay, make no mistake about that."

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

J.U.S.T. WAITS FOR JOVIC

Footscray J.U.S.T. is awaiting a clearance for Bane Jovic, a stopper from Yugoslav Second Division club Novi Sad.

Jovic, 28, has been training with J.U.S.T. for six weeks and is looking good.

With Kyri Kyriakouleas expected to return to the team in late February, he and Jovic could from an effective new defensive partnership that would compensate for the loss of Gary McDowell.

Meanwhile, J.U.S.T. coach Cedo Cirkovic has denied reports that he has had an argument with Suleiman Curovic and that Curovic wants a transfer.

He said the reports stemmed from his opposition to Curovic taking penalties. "It's for his own good. If he misses, he only loses confidence," Cirkovic said.

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Ricoy wants to be another di Stefano

By STEPHEN DETTRE

Tales of ragged youngsters kicking a makeshift ball for hours on end on dimly lit streets abound in the mythology of soccer's heroes.

Players such as Puskas, Pele, Matthews and their ilk have recounted endlessly of how they honed their immaculate skills on wretched, cobblestone streets.

Young St. George midfielder Pedro Ricoy can't lay claim to any of the imagery of those stories, but he readily admits he probably spent just as many hours with his mates playing imaginary Cup finals and championship matches.

"Almost from the time I can remember, I've been playing," Ricoy said.

"When I was really young we'd play from the morning until it was dark."

Ricoy said that despite being born in Uruguay, his great idol was Argentine maestro Alfredo di Stefano.

"I've seen matches of his on television and on film and there was just something about the way he played — he controlled the match and was always aware of what went on.

"I reckon I've tried to copy his style."

Some observers feel Ricoy is one of the most promising young midfielders in Australia — sort of Sydney's answer to Oscar Crino.

He possesses a dazzling burst of speed, great control and tremendous vision.

Last season he did enough in his few outings with St George to suggest to most critics that he will be one of the stars of the future.

And quite a few of those critics were stunned when he was only included in the stand-by squad for Jimmy Shoulder's Young Socceroos, who will take part in the elimination series for the Youth World Cup in February.

Ricoy himself was disappointed, but not devastated, at being left out of the main squad.

"Of course I was upset, but you can't let these things weigh you down," he said.

"It's made me even more determined to do well this year and show that I could be of value to the Youth team."

Ricoy felt the Youth Squad was, however, not as strong as it could be.

"I may not be the one to criticise, but I don't reckon they'll be competitive enough," he said.

"There seem to be too many players from the Institute (of Sport) and not enough who've played regularly in the NSL.

"I just reckon the Israelis and New Zealanders will use their most experienced players and we could suffer a little in that regard," he said.

Pedro Ricoy (centre) challenges Sydney Hakoah goalkeeper Tony Pezzano for a high ball. At right is Hakoah captain John Kosmina. Picture by ALEX VESIC.

He said playing in the youth league and the NSL were worlds apart.

"In the NSL you have to act much quicker and think even faster.

"If you don't, then the chance is gone and the whole match can swing against you."

Ricoy and his family emigrated to Australia in 1977 from Uruguay, when he was 10.

He had played some junior football in Uruguay, then became involved in the junior code here, before ending up at St George as an Under 13.

"And I've been there ever since. It's a great club.

"I've been approached by other Sydney clubs, but I don't see why I should leave St George.

"I'm happy here, and Frank (Arok) is a great coach.

"His methods are a little weird, but his results speak for themselves."

Ricoy said he was hoping that being excluded from the Youth squad for the elimination matches wouldn't mean being left out of consideration if Australia qualified for the Soviet Union.

"I'm just going to try and establish myself in the St George first team and show that I can be of value," he said.

As for long term ambitions: "I suppose like every young Australian player, it's a dream to play in Europe," he said.

"It's been shown now that Australian players can do it, and there seem to be more clubs willing to try out players from here.

"But as for when and where, that I don't know."

Strangly' for a lad from Latin America, he has no desire to play in any of the South American leagues: "I only know I wouldn't go back to South America because the standard of living there isn't very high."

Ricoy, having just finished high school, said he was looking for a job, but added that he wanted something that would allow him as much time as possible to devote to soccer.

"I keep on trying to work on those aspects of my game that I don't think are very strong.

"I'm a natural right footer, but I want to be just as good with my left foot.

"And my heading has never been a strong point, because I'm not really that tall . . . but I've been working on my jumping and I reckon that's half the battle.

"I also always work on my control and speed.

"At present we're doing the usual pre-season stuff . . . plenty of physical work, but whenever I have the chance I like to go to the park and just play with the ball.

"It's fun . . . I enjoy it."

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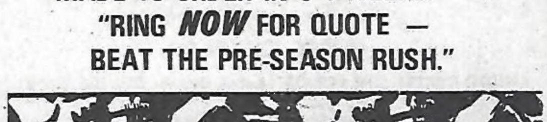

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BUFFALO SPORTS

BUFFALO

Memo Arok: watch Olver

No, it's not a goal. Heidelberg goalkeeper Jeff Olver just has parried this penalty atempt by Footscray J.U.S.T's Milan Stojilovic. It was Olver's second penalty save in as many matches. Pictures by LES SHORROCK.

Heidelberg 2
Foots JUST 0

With Bill Lazopoulos joining JUST from Western Suburbs for this match, coach Cedo Cirkovic declared: "I want to work mainly with local boys, playing in the Continental style. If we lose, at least we will have played attractively — not like before. We need a bit of time, of course, but I'm sure we will be a better team."

Heideberg had Charlie Yankos back after suspension but he is said to have renewed his request for a transfer.

Striker Stewart Stevenson was fearsome and dynamic in Heidelberg's attack, and was rewarded late in the match when he scored the second goal, but it is Olver who has done most to boost his reputation in this series.

His penalty save in this match was his second, as he matched the feat against Juventus.

National coach Frank Arok has said he wants another experienced goalkeeper as backup for Terry Greedy. He couldn't possibly get a better man than Olver.

Cirkovic reshuffled his lineup, switching left winger Zdravko Lujic to left back to make room up front for Lazopoulos.

Gary McDowell made his last appearance for J.U.S.T. before switching to Hellas, and typical of his sportsmanship, gave it all he had and emerged as J.U.S.T.'s best player.

Steve Winn, off the transfer list now, was back in the Heidelberg team to partner Stewart Stevenson up front, but Don Macleod remains on offer for $18,000 as he has turned down the terms offered by the club. Macleod apparently is being sought by Juventus.

Dennis Boland again played well in J.U.S.T.'s goal, and the club no doubt hopes he will change his mind about quitting to become player-coach of Mordialloc at the end of the series.

J.U.S.T. held sway over Heidelberg in the first half, and should have scored from its penalty in the 12th minute. Right back Emil Petrov stormed forward, cut inside and sent a great pass to Suleiman Curovic running into the box. Olver came out at him, went for the ball, and Curovic tumbled over. Referee Evan Venios awarded a penalty, Stojilovic lined up his shot, but it was much too close to Olver, who saved it.

By the end of the first half, Heidelberg had established a physical advantage over J.U.S.T., whose players were being pushed off the ball too easily.

Sure enough, only three minutes after half time, Heidelberg heralded things to come when Scott Patterson blasted in a shot that Boland blocked desperately. It went out to Mike Valentine who seemed certain to score but this time Tom Karic cleared off the goal line.

J.U.S.T. was not done yet, though. There was panic in Heidelberg's defence as Joe Angele missed a back-pass from Steve Marley, giving Stojilovic a chance to score. Stojilovic sidestepped Angele twice in the box to get his shot on target, but by then, Olver had dashed out and dived at Stojilovic's feet.

J.U.S.T. had wasted its chances, and now Heidelberg closed in for the kill.

Theo Selemidis lobbed the ball intelligently over the defence to the far side, where Patterson ran through and stuck his shot past Boland for goal No. 1.

The J.U.S.T. players complained the move had been offside and, indeed, a linesman had had his flag up momentarily.

But no complaints about goal No. 2.

Steve Tasios crossed the ball, it came off a J.U.S.T. defender's head, and there was Stevenson, unmarked, to put it away.

— LAURIE SCHWAB.

Claude to move, Zarko to appeal?

Makedonia 0
Croatia 0

Claude Lucchesi was expected to transfer this week, and Zarko Odzakov was planning to ask for an NSL Tribunal hearing to force down the $32,000 transfer fee placed on him by Makedonia.

Lucchesi, who has a $5000 transfer fee written into his contract, has had offers from Footscray J.U.S.T. and Fawkner.

George Campbell and Ljube Petrovski remain on Makedonia's transfer list because they refused to accept less pay in line with fewer matches to be played this season.

Croatia meanwhile, continues its wait for new coach Domagoj Kapetanovic, and perhaps one or two new players from Yugoslavia.

Goalkeeper Zeljko Govic, standing in while Yakka Banovic negotiates to join Juventus, saved Croatia on Friday night by making an amazing save in the last minute of play. Graham Heys had cut the ball back from the line for Robbie Dunn who faced Govic at point-blank range, yet somehow, Govic managed to save the shot.

But if Govic was impressive, then Makedonia's Gary Cole also deserves praise.

After his poor 1984 season, Cole looked sharp, fit, confident and really worked hard across the forward line, as well as dropping back.

And Makedonia's defence was quite superb. I doubt that there is a better defensive line in the National League. Just look at these names — George McMillan, Ian Dobson, Robbie Dunn, Con Opasinis — not to mention goalkeeper Richard Wilson, the New Zealand international.

Victor Cristaldo continued to impress in the Croatia team. This 17-year-old from Keilor-Austria who has played striker, midfield and sweeper in the past, is being used out wide on the left, and despite a hevy clash with McMillan in the fourth minute — a fate you wouldn't wish on anyone — he picked himself up, dusted himself off and figured in many impressive forward moves.

Jim Campbell looked set to score at the end of one such move but he too had to contend with McMillan, who threw himself at the ball and blocked the shot.

Cole sparkled as he beat two men and sent forward a fine through pass for Sean Lane whose shot however, was tapped over the bar by Govic for a corner.

But it was Croatia that put together possibly the best move of the match, in the 26th minute. It started with Drago Deankovic — who played very well in defence — sending the ball forward to Tommy Cumming who laid it off first-time to Campbell. The pass from Campbell went wide to Cristaldo who speared an angled pass to the far post, aimed at Steve Gojevic who was storming forward but got there a mite too late.

Gojevic repaid the compliment by sending a cross from the left aimed at Christaldo in the box but McMillan cleared with a strong header.

Big Croatia sweeper Aki Kotzamichalis was put into trouble by a long ball which bounced in front of him and over his head, letting Graham Heys through, but left back George Hannah tackled well and forced Heys off the ball.

The half ended with Bill Piculovski heading just over from a cross by Heys.

Cole was flicking on first-time lay-offs on the ground and in the air, as well as playing accurate long passes to his team mates, yet in a flash he was back in defence, dispossessing Cumming jut after half time.

When Opasinis worked the ball forward however, and Cole got a chance to shoot, the old hoodoo returned and the shot went a mile over the bar.

George Gagic replaced Piculovski in Makedonia's midfield in the 55th minute, and did some impressive things while he was on Gagic and Piculovski both played in Makedonia's youth team last season.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

• Juventus full back Frank Geremia darts away from Morwell's Jack van Baar. At the rear is Peter Lewis.

Take the knife away from Traynor's back

Morwell F. 1
Juventus 1

While someone from Juventus used his friendship with a reporter to sharpen the knife aimed at new coach Tommy Traynor's back, Morwell Falcons proved yet again that they should be playing in the National League.

Falcons sweeper Steve Moore and striker Russell Athersych have been in great touch during the Buffalo Gold Cup and Falcons have proved that they would at least have been competitive had they elected to enter the 1985 NSL.

But what about the disgraceful state of affairs surrounding a certain scribe's call for Traynor's sacking?

But Traynor can rest assured that the vast majority of soccer writers in Victoria don't take this kind of attitude and although they might get their facts wrong from time to time, many of them at least give our coaches a fair go.

Juventus has been disappointing in the Buffalo Gold Cup but I well remember the early displays of Heidelberg in last year's Gold Cup, best described as a shambles.

Heidelberg however did well in the league and with the quality and depth at Juventus, allied with the respect Traynor enjoys from his players, there's every reason to be optimistic about the team's future in 1985.

Paul Wade, signed from Green Gully, is a fine player still adjusting to new surroundings, Richard Miranda had a long injury lay-off last year thanks to a gent playing with Iraklis, Fabio Incantalupo missed all of last season through injury and is regaining both touch and match fitness, John Dowie arrived back only last week from holidays in Scotland, Brian Brown is negotiating terms and will be a bonus at the back once room is made for him by visa player Eddie Campbell's departure to Fawkner, and Traynor still seems to be working out the best front-line combination.

All these factors have contributed to Juve's Gold Cup displays to date. I've got no doubts that the squad has the quality and depth to do well this year. Patience is the key. Many Juventus supporters I've spoken to in the past week seem patient enough. What a pity some aren't.

Morwell boasts a far more settled line-up. Romeo Prezioso is getting a chance to prove his worth during the Gold Cup, not that the young goalkeeper has had a lot of work to do so far and with Harry Bingham, Moore, Emil Bruns and Jim Train in front of him, he's well protected.

Ian Stirton doesn't look fully fit to me but he's a constant menace inside the area and he'll score goals. Athersych, as I've said before, is in great

Morwell was good value for this 1-1 draw with Juventus. The black and whites took the lead via the penalty spot in tghe 24th minute when Fab Incantalupo converted after referee Peter Mateski picked up a handball infringement.

Four minutes later, Paul Drinozcky tripped Athersych inside the Juve area and another penalty was awarded. Moore scored from the spot.

Three minutes into the second half, Juventus was unlucky not to hit the front when Robbie Cullen headed an Incantalupo cross onto the near post.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

OOPS!

Steve Winn was the scorer of Heidelberg's second goal in its 2-1 win over Juventus in the Buffalo Gold Cup, not Scott Patterson as reported in last week's "Soccer Action".

Sorry about that Steve. You too Scott.

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Buffalo Gold Cup details

SECTION A

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Melb. Croatia	2	1	0	3	0	5
Makedonia	2	1	0	4	2	5
Green Gully	2	0	0	5	0	4
Polonia	0	0	2	2	4	0
Hellas	0	0	2	0	2	0
Box Hill	0	0	2	0	6	0

SECTION B

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Morwell Falcons	2	1	0	5	2	5
H'berg-Alexander	2	1	0	5	2	5
Fawkner	1	1	1	4	4	3
Sun. Geo Cross	0	2	1	4	5	2
Juventus	0	2	1	3	4	2
Footscray JUST	0	1	2	2	6	1

Remaining games:

Tonight (Wednesday) from 7.15 pm: Polonia v. Box Hill, Hellas v. Green Gully.

Friday: Heidelberg v. Fawkner, Juventus v. Footscray J.U.S.T.

Saturday: Hellas v. Box Hill, Makedonia v. Green Gully.

Wednesday, Feb. 13: George Cross v. Morwell Falcons, Croatia v. Polonia.

Friday, Feb. 15:Footscray J.U.S.T. v. Fawkner, Juventus v. George Cross.

Saturday, Feb. 16: Croatia v. Green Gully, Hellas v. Polonia.

Wednesday, Feb. 20: Makedonia v. Box Hill, Heidelberg v. Morwell Falcons.

Saturday, Feb. 23: Semi-finals.

Wednesday, Feb. 27: Final.

TOP SCORERS: 5. Lewis (Green Gully); 3. Lane (Mak.); 2. Moore (MF), Gilder (SGC), Latif (SGC).

SECTION A

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0. Referee: Stewart Mellings 7.

CROATIA: Govic 9 — Deankovic 8, Kotzamichalis 6, Parton 7, Hannah 7 — Biskic 6, Antolovic 6, Campbell 7, Cristaldo 7 — Gojevic 7, Cumming 7. Coach: Tommy Cumming.

MAKEDONIA:Wilson 6 — McMillan 8, Dunn 8, Dobson 8, Opasinis 7 — Ilioski 7, Flavell 5, Piculovski 6 (Gagic 55th), Heys 8 — Lane 7, wiole 8. Coach: Bill UURRAY.

SECTION B

MORWELL 1 (Moore penalty 28th) BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Incantalupo penalty 24th). Referre: Peter Mateski 7.

MORWELL: Prezioso 6 — Bingham 7, Moore 8, Bruns 7, Train 7 — J. van Baar 7, O'Callaghan 8, MacLean 7, Cassar 6 — Stirton 7, Athersych 8. Coach: Jimmy Dunne.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: Keogh 7 — Lloyd 7, Lewis 8, Drinoczky 7, Geremia 7 — Wade 7, MWIRANDA &, Incantalapo 7 — Cullen 7, Sweeney3, Zinni 6. Coach: Tmmy Traynor.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: 2 (Latif penalty 20th, Gilder 61st) FAWKNER 3 (Angele 12th, Cavallari 49th, Palinkas penalty 52nd). Referee: John Stojovic 7.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Kastner 6 — Scerri 6, Richardson 5, Bennett 6, Taylor 6 — Toal 6 (McGorian 54th), Faulkner 6, Bain 6, Mitten 5 — Gilder 8, Latif 7. Coach: John Garei er.

asawkner: noee 7 — Petrecelli 7,Macleod 6, Fattore 6 (inj. Cavallari 47th), Giacomi 7 — Sagleam 6 (Sabatino 67th), Angele 8, Boyle 7, Lia 6 — Tuffield 7, Palinkas 7. Coach: Gus Macleod.

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER 2 (Patterson 59th., Stevenson 65th) FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T. 0. Referee: Evan Venios 7.

HEIDELBERG: Olver 10 — McKie 8, Angele 7, Yankos 7, Marley 6 — Valentine 6, Selemidis 6, Tasios 7, Patterson 6 — Winn 5, Stevenson 9. Coach: Brian Garvey.

FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T.: Boland 8 — Petrov 7, McDowell 8, Karic 6, Lujic 6 — Curovic 6, Belic 6, Stojilovic 6 — Lazopoulos 5, Carroll 5 (Perez-Reigoza 45th), Tapai 7. Coach: Cedo Cirkovic.

Hellas, Makedonia present Gully with tough task

Gary McDowell could make his debut for South Melbourne Hellas against Green Gully in the second of tonight's (Wednesday's) Buffalo Gold Cup double header at Olympic Park.

Hellas and Footscray J.U.S.T. have reached agreement over a transfer fee for McDowell and the deal was expected to go through as we went to press.

There's also a chance that Socceroo midfielder Kenny Murphy will be back in the Hellas line-up after successfully concluding negotiations over a new contract.

Gully, just one point behind section "A" leaders Melbourne Croatia and Preston Madedonia and with a better goal difference and a match in hand, would move to the top of its group table with a win tonight but against a much stronger Hellas line-up, that's not going to be an easy task.

Tonight's first match, between Polonia and Box Hill at 7.15 pm, should see Polonia emerge triumphant.

Both outfits are eyeing State League honors this year but it's Polonia which has been more impressive in the Gold Cup and with Peter Czapnik and Leszek Gregorczuk calling the shots in midfield, star striker Janusz Przybyla should get enough of the ball to put the Box Hill defence under pressure and spearhead a Polonia win.

Fawkner must beat Heidelberg Alexander on Friday night to have any chance of reaching the semi-finals but my money's on Heidelberg. Stewart Stevenson, Stevie Winn and Scott Patterson represent enough striking power to swing the game Heidelberg's way.

The second game on Friday night, between Brunswick Juventus and Footscray J.U.S.T., is a toss of the coin affair, provided J.U.S.T. plays as well as it did against Heidelberg last week. The pace of youngsters Ernie Tapai and Bill Lazopoulos out wide could worry Juventus but the expected loss of McDowell leaves a gaping hole in J.U.S.T.'s defence.

The pick of Saturday night's games clearly is the clash between Makedonia and Green Gully. A semi-final berth is at stake and Makedonia can win this one.

The Makedonia defence is awesome. George McMillan, Robbie Dunn, Ian Dobson and Con Opasinis form one of the best defences in the NSL, and they can shut out the threat posed by the Gold Cup's leading scorer, Paul Lewis of Green Gully. And if Gary Cole continues to show positive signs of regaining his touch and confidence, then alongside an outstanding striker in Sean Lane, he'll give Gully plenty to think about at the back.

The first match on Saturday, between Hellas and Box Hill, will see the Hillmen scrapping hard to hold their classier opponents at bay.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Faulkner misses, Fawkner wins

Geo. Cross 2 Fawkner 3

Glaring defensive weaknesses and problems in midfield — that's what new coach John Gardiner will be trying to erase as he attempts to consolidate Sunshine-George Cross's NSL status.

And Fawkner is only a couple of players away from being able to mount a serious challenge for the 1985 State League championship. Eddie Campbell's switch from Juventus to Fawkner should finally go through this week, and Fawkner coach Gus Macleod probably will be looking for a replacement for striker Ian Tuffield who goes to the U.S. in a couple of months.

One giant plus for Sunshine-George Cross is the re-emergence of Carl Gilder, hailed a couple of seasons ago as one of the finest target men in Victorian soccer, only to suffer a dramatic slump. Gilder last year joined Gardiner, then coachng Polonia, on loan from Sunshine-George Cross and recaptured the confidence and honed the qualities which earned him so fine a reputation. Judging by his Buffalo Gold Cup displays, Gilder at last is going to make his mark on the NSL stage.

If Sunshine-George Cross can sign Keith Adams from Melbourne Croatia, it will have gone a long way towards solving its defensive problems. A hint of things to come in last week's match was shown by the defensive blunder leading to Fawkner's opening goal in the 12th minute.

Midfielder Roger Bain missed with what should have been a simple clearance. Lou Kastner was caught out of position as a result and Fabio Angele had a simple tap in to complete a comedy of errors.

Two minutes later, Steve Richardson mistimed a clearance. The ball lobbed up to Tuffield who headed wide when he should have scored.

Noel Mitten, not looking like he's enjoying his unaccustomed midfield duties, had a hand in the equaliser. He moved inside from the left and played the ball into Gilder's feet inside the Fawkner area in the 20th minute. Frank McLeod's challenge was clumsy and when Gilder hit the deck, referee John Stojkovic pointed to the penalty spot. Ossie Latif converted.

Two minutes after replacing injured Cesare Fattore in the second half, Tiziano Cavallari got his first touch and scored. Michael Giacomi was at the near post to head in a corner and Cavallari tucked a first timer away from just four metres.

Tuffield, renowned for his heading ability, worked very hard on the ground and his powerful running, allied to the close control and pace of Joe Palinkas, was causing all sorts of problems for Sunshne-George Cross. Tuffield was felled just inside the 'Cross area in the 52nd minute and Palinkas scored from the resultant penalty.

Then came the goal of the game. Latif worked well out wide on the right, got past a defender then struck the ball toward the near post. Gilder charged in and despite having an opponent at his back, managed to deflect the ball first time past Corado Nobile. It was 3-2 and Sunshine-George Cross was in with a chance of a draw when Fawkner really should have had five or six goals chalked up.

One minute from time, Chris Taylor brilliantly beat two opponents out wide on the left and chipped the ball across. Jeff Faulkner, coming in from the far post, headed low and narrowly wide, and that, folks, was the end of the ball game.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

• Fawkner star Joe Palinkas (centre) is confronted by Sunshine-George Cross midfielder Jeff Faulkner (left). At right is Sunshine-George Cross winger Bobby Toal.

• Roger Bain (third from left) fails to stop Fawkner's second goal last week against Sunshine-George Cross, scored by substitute Tiziano Cavallari. Others pictured, from left: Jeff Faulkner, Noel Mitten, Lou Kastner, Chris Taylor (Sunshine-George Cross), Reno Lia, Cavallari (Fawkner), Steve Richardson (Sunshine-George Cross).

Albion Rovers set to link with Tuku Gucu

Albion Rovers this week will amalgamate with the Turkish club, Western Tuku Gucu of Sunshine.

Albion Rovers, the first soccer club to gain a full liquor licence, has been carrying a debt for some years, and hopes to pay it off from increased income provided by the Turkish community.

Since their formation, Albion Rovers have comprised mainly Scottish members.

Under the terms of their licence, they are permitted 250 members, and the amalgamation agreement splits the membership equally between Scots and Turks.

The Turks are expected also to provide a few players.

Contrary to reports in other papers, the amalgamation is not with Royal Richmond, so no vacancy will be created in the Victorian leagues.

New coach of Albion Rovers is Ray Langdale, who replaces Bill McIntyre who has gone to Keilor-Austria.

LAURIE SCHWAB

U.K. player available

• Former Nottingham Forest youngster Brian Kent, 22, wants to play in Australia. Kent currently is tied to English Northern Premier League club Workshop but can get a free to come here.

He can play either in defence or in midfield and can be contacted in England on 0011-44-602-621942.

Meletis joins Wests for 'other' Buffalo Cup

Western Suburbs were trying to sign an attacking midfielder from Irish League club Ballymena and probably will line-up with new signing Nick Meletis from Yarraville in the Buffalo League Cup which kicks off this Sunday.

The Buffalo League Cup involves the 10 State League clubs not competing in the more prestigious Buffalo Gold Cup. The League Cup involves two groups and is played on a round-robin basis to establish the top two in each group. They advance to the semi-finals.

GROUP "A": Northcote, Ringwood Wilhelmina, Albion Rovers, Croydon and Springvale City.

GROUP "B": Western Suburbs, Frankston Pines, Knox City, St. Albans Dinamo and Thomastown.

Here is the full draw:

Sunday, February 10: Northcote v Ringwood Wilhelmina, Albion v Springvale, Croydon bye. Western Suburbs v Frankston Pines, Knox v Thomastown, St. Albans Dinamo bye. All games start at 3 pm.

Sunday, February 17: Albion v Northcote, Springvale v Croydon, Ringwood Wilhelmina bye. Knox v Western Suburbs, Thomastown v St. Albans Dinamo, Frankston Pines bye. All games start at 3 pm.

Thursday, February 21: Northcote v Croydon, Ringwood Wilhelmina v Albion, Springvale bye. Western Suburbs v St. Albans Dinamo, Frankston Pines v Knox, Thomastown bye. All games start at 7 pm.

Sunday, February 24: Sprinvale v Northcote, Croydon v Ringwood Wilhelmina, Albion bye. Thomasstown v Western Suburbs, St. Albans Dinamo v Frankston Pines, Knox bye. All games start at 3 pm.

Sunday, March 3: Ringwood Wilhelmina v -Springvale, Croydon v Albion, Northcote bye. Frankston Pines v Thomastown, St Albans Dinamo v Knox, Western Suburbs bye. All games start at 3 pm.

Wednesday, March 6: Semi-finals — winner group "A" v runner-up group "B" and winner group "B" v runner-up group "A". Both games start at 7 pm.

Sunday, March 10: Final.

The venues for the semi-finals and final haven't been decided.

The preliminary round games are 35 minutes each way without extra time. The semi-finals and final are 45 minutes each way, and if scores are tied at the end of full time, an extra time period of 10 minutes each way will be played. If required, penalties then will be used to decide the outcome.

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John O'Shea is the NSL's senior citizen

By PETER DESIRA

St George Budapest stalwart John O'Shea, one of the quiet men of Frank Arok's Socceroos, has made more NSL appearances than any other player.

The quiet, efficient manner in which he plays, be it in the backline, midfield or even occasionally up front, made him indispensible to his two clubs, St George and Canberra, over the eight years of NSL competition.

O'Shea has averaged 30 league games a season, bringing his overall tally to 212 games in the NSL.

Of those, 156 have been with St George and in between he squeezed in 56 matches for Canberra after transferring there with his two brothers Mike and Robert soon after Raul Blanco had taken over as supremo at Budapest.

O'Shea, who has managed to score 16 goals despite playing mainly in deep positions, has a one-game lead over his nearest rival, Sydney City Hakoah's Joe Watson.

John O'Shea (left) in action for Australia, confronts John McDonald of Glasgow Rangers

Watson has played all his 211 games with the one club — a unique achievement in an era when players invariably seek a change of club every so many years in search of the extra dollar.

O'Shea and Watson are two of five players who have reached the double century mark in NSL appearances.

The other three are Victorians who are younger and have a distinct possibility of overtaking both Watson and O'Shea in years to come. Jim Campbell, for whom South Melbourne Hellas has renewed its long-standing interest, is in third spot with 206 appearances despite going through his leanest season in 1984, at Melbourne Croatia.

Campbell, whose strength, has been coming from midfield positions to score important goals, managed only three for Croatia last season.

Campbell was relegated to substitute six times at Croatia — in stark contrast with his spell at Heidelberg.

Gary Cole, another one, who would quickly want to forget 1984, is in fourth position with 206 games while his Preston Makedonia teammate Zoran Ilioski reached the 200 milestone in the last game of the 1984 season.

Cole has scored 91 goals — an average of just under one every two games.

But the striker has lost the overall top scorer title to John Kosmina who is in 22nd spot in the appearances list after missing more than one season in the NSL during a stint with Arsenal.

One player who will join the five in the 200 club in the first week of the season is Graham Honeyman who has played 199 matches for West Adelaide Hellas so far.

Phil O'Connor is also within striking distance of the exclusive set, despite spreading his services over four clubs over the eight years.

A total of 52 players have played 150 or more games in the league.

Of those, nine are no longer involved at an NSL club and cannot improve on their tallies for the coming season.

They are David Jones who has returned to West Australia after stints at West Adelaide, Adelaide City, Juventus, South Melbourne Hellas and Makedonia Dennis Boland who turns to coaching at the end of the Buffalo Gold Cup, Martyn Crook who quit West Adelaide Hellas last season, John Nyskohus who now is playing in the SA State League, Branko Buljevic who retired at the end of the 1983 season, former Socceroo Allan Maher, Jom Kondarios who walked out on Footscray J.U.S.T. last season, John Stevenson who now is a player-coach in NSW and Jim O'Reilly who this month move from George Cross to Croydon.

Boland, Crook and Maher all are goalkeepers — which emerges as the safest position in the appearances list considering the number of custodians who have played in over 100 games in the NSW.

The others include Peter Laumets of South Melbourne Hellas (149 games), Gary Meier of Sydney Olympic (145 games), Todd Clarke, Sydney Hakoah and Kim Washart, Brisbane City, both on 140 games; Phil Dando of Newcastle and Brisbane Lions, 137 games; Jeff Olver 125 games for Heidelberg, and Greg Woodhouse, 111 matches for Western Suburbs, APIA and Sydney Croatia.

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• Below is the list of most NSL appearances (compiled after an exhaustive research exercise lasting three weeks) who have played 100 games or more in the NSL:

The key to the figures: First figure denotes overall total of appearances inclusive of matches as substitute, the second figure breaks the overall total into full appearances and substitute appearance and the figure in brackets is the number of goals scored.

The figures after the player's name give a breakdown of appearances and goals at every club to which the player has given service.

All the figures are restricted to league games. They do not include appearances in Buffalo and NSL Cup games.

Key to abbreviations:

AC: Adelaide City
BJ: Brunswick Juventus
Bcktn: Blacktown
BrC: Brisbane City
BrL: Brisbane Lions
C: Canberra
F: Footscray JUST
GG: Green Gully
HU: Heidelberg United
LA: Leichhardt APIA
MK: Mooroolbark
M: Marconi
MC: Melbourne Croatia
NR: Newcastle-Rosebud
Pn: Preston
PC: Penrith City
PME: Melita Eagles
StG: St George
SCr: Sydney Croatia
SM: South Melbourne Hellas
Scy: Sydney City
SO: Sydney Olympic
SGC: Sunshine George Cross
WA: West Adelaide
Wg: Wollongong
WS: Western Suburbs (NSW)

212. 210/2 (16) O'SHEA, John 154/2 (9) StG, 56 (7) C)
211. 205/6 (24) WATSON, Joe (Scy)
206. 195/11 (55) CAMPBELL, Jim (177-5 (52) HU, 18-6 (3) MC)
203. 197/6 (91) COLE, Gary (175-2 (88) HU, 22-4 (3) Pn)
200. 186/14 (21) ILIOSKI, Zoran (141-8 (16) F, 45-6 (5) Pn)
198. 196/2 (79) O'CONNOR, Phil (69-2 (27) StG, 52 (17) LA, 57 (28) Wg, 18 (7) Bcktn)
199. 194/5 (33) HONEYMAN, Graham (WA)
195. 194/1 (4) NYSKOHUS, Bugsy (AC)
197. 193/4 (8) PIMBLETT, Frank (BrC)
197. 193/4 (16) HENDERSON, Tony (51 (5) C, 142/4 (11) M)
197. 186/11 (12) GAFFNEY, Larry (116-7 (12) BrC, 70-4 Wg)
196. 187/9 (82) JANKOVICS, Mark (24 (4) StG, 163-9 (78) M)
194. 191/3 (9) NIVEN, Alan (BrL)
192. 184/8 (14) McGREGOR, Ian (WA)
187. 183/4 (52) BARNES, Murray (SCy)
186. 180/6 (3) PERRY, Steve (25/1 (1) WS, 155/5 (2) BrC)
185. 184/1 (11) JONES, David (76 (6) WA, 55 (5) AC, 9-1 SM, 44 Pn)
185. 181/4 (9) O'CONNOR, Steve (SCy)
182. 182 (29) BYRNE, Gary (114 (21) M, 40 (3) C, 28 (5) Bcktn)
181. 179/2 (11) STONE, Peter (50 (4) WS, 29 (3) LA, 100-2 (4) StG)
181. 168/13 (4) CANT, Jim (12-2 M, 66/1 (1) C, 90-10 (3) Scy)
180. 180 (93) KOSMINA, John (67 (24) WA, 4 AC, 109 (69) Scy)
176. 172/4 (11) O'SHEA, Robert (124/1 (7) StG, 48/3 (4) C)
175. 162/13 (22) MELTA, Sergio (AC)
172. 156/16 (28) SENKALSKI, Joe (125-12 (21) NR, 31-4 (7)SO)
172. 154/18 (9) HOGG, Steve (49/15 C, 105/3 (9) BrL)
171. 171 (1) BOLAND, Dennis (165 (1) F, 6 SM)
169. 166/3 (31) LUJIC, Zdravko F)
169. 165/4 (47) SHARNE, Peter (155-3 (46) M, 10-1 (1) LA)
168. 156/12 (10) SELEMIDIS, Theo (HU)
167. 162/5 (12) RASKOPOULOS, Peter (134-4 (11) SO, 28-1 (1) M)
166. 165/1 (7) RUSSELL, Bobby (103/1 (6) AC, 62 (1) SM)
166. 157/9 (3) HAZABENT, Igor (F)
165. 164/1 CROOK, Martyn (WA)
164. 161/3 (53) NYSKOHUS, John (AC)
164. 154/10 (12) MASON, Craig (131-10 (11) NR, 23 (1) M)
163. 156/7 (22) BOZANIC, Vic (86-4 (7) WA, 50-3 (10) M, 20 (5) LA)
161. 144/17 (43) BULJEVIC, Branko (74 (21) HU, 70-17 (22) SM)
160. 158/2 (10) RATCLIFFE, David (79/2 (5) BrC, 79 (5) StG)
160. 151/9 (32) HEYS, Graham (67-6 (19) NR, 60 (9) WA, 24-3 (4) Pn)
159. 159 MAHER, Allan (M)
159. 157/2 (16) KONDARIOS, Jim (F)
159. 156/3 (28) STEVENSON, John (101 (24) SCy, 47-2 (4) SM, 8-1 (SGC)
159. 152/7 (15) TREDINNICK, Peter (44-16 (2) NR, 52 (6) Wg, 56-1 (7) LA)
157. 153/4 O'REILLY, Jim (82-1 F, 51-3 HU,, 20 SGC)
157. 129/28 (24) MARIANI, Bertie (103-26 (21) 26-2 (3) LA)
155. 155 (5) BENNETT, Col (BrL)
155. 147/8 (38) KATHOLOS, Peter (30-5 (5) StG, 117-3 (3) SO)
153. 152/1 (39) BYRNE, Terry (C)
153. 150/3 (25) CAMPBELL, George (101-3 (17) SM, 49 (8) Pn)
152. 152 (1) McMILLAN, Arthur (HU)
150. 139/11 (9) ONTONG, Paul (22/3 (4) Mk, 81/7 (5) BrL, 36/1 C)
149. 149 (7) BERTOGNA, Arno (52 (2) NR, 44 (1) Wg, 53 (4) LA)
149. 149 LAUMETS, Peter (SM)
149. 140/9 (46) OLLERTON, Peter (33 (13) SM, 10 (2) M, 35 (7) F,62-9 (24) Pn)
149. 131/18 (15) TAYLOR, Ken (103-17 (15) HU, 28-1 F)
148. 148 (5) WILSON, Peter (46 (3) WS, 102 (2) LA)
148. 137/11 (64) BODEN, Ken (52 (26) NR, 74-7 (36) SCy, 11-4 (2) SCr)
146. 146 (13) HERMISTON, Jim (39 (4) BrC, 107 (9) BrL)
146. 135/11 (11) O'DONNELL, Brian (26 (1) WS, 22-6 (1) LA, 47 (8) Bcktn, 40-5 (1) F)
145. 144/1 MEIER, Gary (SO)
145. 141/4 (16) ROONEY, Jim (52 (11) M, 89-4 (5) HU)
145. 140/5 (18) YZENDOORN, John (89-3 (11) HU, 51-2 (7) SM)
143. 141/2 (6) WILLIS, Peter (49 NR, 92-2 (6) Wg)
142. 140/2 (12) JENNINGS, Graham (SO)
142. 140/2 (10) DAVIDSON, Alan (SM)
141. 141 PRSKALO, Ivo (M)
140. 140 CLARKE, Todd (SC)
140. 140 WISHART, Kim (BrC)
140. 139/1 (19) DRINKWATER, Roy (9-1 BrL, 124 19) NR, 6 SCr)
138. 137/1 (7) BUTLER, Terry (LA)
137. 135/2 DANDO, Phil (113-1 NR, 22-1 BrL)
136. 123/13 (20) HUGHES, Alan (31-2 (3) LA, 32-4 (2) BrC, 60-7 (15) BrL)
135. 135 (3) DEGNEY, Paul (M)
135. 132/3 (12) ROGERS, Billy (109-3 (12) SM, 23 BJ)
135. 123/12 (56) PATON, Jamie (88-5 (42) HU, 35-7 (14) F)
135. 121/14 (26) PALINKAS, Joe (71/2 (17) F, 50/12 (9) BrC)
135. 113/22 (22) McLAREN, Don (87/22 (18) C, 26 (4) SGC)
134. 132/2 (10) McGACHEY, Neil (WA)
134. 127/7 (8) SPANOS, John (77-4 (8) SCy, 30 HU, 21-3 M)
134. 122/12 (43) COTTON, Roy (32-8 (11) StG, 10-2 (3) SO, 55-2 (22) Wg, 25 (7) PC)
133. 124/9 (27) NORTHCOTE, Brian (AC)
131. 122/9 (5) MULLEN, Kevin (SCy)
129. 127/2 (13) CURRAN, Col (26 (2) WS, 101-2 (11) NR)
129. 125/4 O'SHEA, Mike (88/3 StG, 37/1 C)
129. 124/5 (5) BLAIR, Steve (SM)
129. 119/10 (17) JONES, David (NR)
128. 128 (4) XANTHOPOULOS, Arthur (SM)
128. 113/15 (18) WILSON, Ken (85-12 (15) SO, 3-3 StG, 25 (3) PME)
127. 127 (12) PERIN, John (AC)
127. 123/4 (2) PULLEN, Mark (LA)
125. 125 OLVER, Jeff (HU)
125. 123/2 MILOVANOVIC, Mike (81/1 C, 23 Bcktn, 19/1 BrC)
125. 117/8 (16) MAROCCHI, Gary (AC)
123. 118/5 ROBERTSON, Alex (SCy)
122. 121/1 (4) WILKINSON, Billy (BrC)
122. 120/2 (5) MOULIS, Danny (93/1 (4) C, 27/1 SO)
118. 114/4 (19) HAMILTON, Bobby (BrC)
118. 113/5 (21) PICIOANE, Joe (100 (20) F, 13-5 (1) M)
118. 111/7 (16) SILVA, Hilton (88-5 (14) SCy, 23-2 (2) M)
118. 109/9 (3) CROSS, Mike (81-9 (3) SO, 28 PC)
117. 113/4 (12) McINTOSH, Dave (63-4 (10) SO, 25 (1) StG, 25 (1) PC)
117. 111/6 SKELLERN, Rod (24-1 WS, 71-5 LA, 16 Bcktn)
115. 99/16 (23) PATIKAS, Jim (44-14 (10) SCy, 55-2 (13) SO)
115. 99/16 (20) MORSELLO, Tony (LA)
114. 103/11 (23) SOUNESS, Ian (SCy)
113. 109/4 (56) BROWN, Doug (50-3 (18) Pn, 59-1 (38) SM)
111. 111 WOODHOUSE, Greg (9 WS, 94 LA, 8 SCr)
111. 105/6 (1) KYRIAKOULEAS, Kyri (8-2 SM, 97-4 (1) F)
110. 109/1 (5) YANKOS, Charlie (HU)
110. 109/1 LOWNDS, Nigel (BrL)
116. 108/8 (23) BRENNAN, Tony (21-2 (10) BrL, 87/6 (13) C)
116. 96/20 (16 BOZIKAS, Andy (HU)
110. 108/2 (34) BRADLEY, John (LA)
117. 107/10 (22) CHRISTOPOULOS, George (66/10 (18) SM, 41 (4) C)
107. 107 (7) DUNLEAVY, Chris (78 (6) Wg, 29 (1) Bcktn)
107. 107 (1) McAUSLAND, Colin (79 (1) LA, 28 PME)
107. 106/1 (4) TREDINNICK, Howard (79-1 (4) NR, 27 PME)
107. 105/2 (3) BANNON, Pat (HU)
107. 82/25 (13) CALDWELL, Kevin (BrC)
106. 106 HOSZOWSKI, Steve (C)
106. 104/2 (2) BRUCE, Ian (SCy)
106. 99/7 (2) JOVANOVIC, Slobodan (79-5 (2) F, 20-2 (1) SGC)
106. 96/10 (14) BELIC, Vlatko (F)
106. 94/12 (30) KELSO, Barry (81-9 (27) Brc, 13-3 (3) BrL)
105. 105 (1) BOYLE, Peter (79 (15) WA, 26 (1) Pn)
105. 98/7 (26) VILLANI, Charlie (AC)
105. 98/7)3) KALIFATIDIS, Kris (SM)
105. 95/10 (10) LUTTON, Bertie (16-2 (5) SCy, 79-8 (5) SM)
104. 103/1 (34) WILKINSON, Paul (53/1 (13) StG, 21 (9) Bcktn, 29 (12) BrC)
104. 102/2 (36 EVANS, Alun (SM)
104. 97/7 (50) SOPER, Marshall (45-4 (26) LA, 52-3 (24) SO)
103. 102/1 (3) AINSWORTH, Jeff (86 (2) Wg 16-1 (1) PC)
102. 101/1 (2) POTTER, George (50/1 (1) BrC, 51 (1) BrL)
101. 101 JAMES, Bruce (45 Bcktn, 56 M)
101. 93/8 MACKIE, Ian (34-8 WA, 59 HU)
100. 98/2 (7) FLEMING, John (Wg)
100. 96/4 (13) McMILLAN, George (Pn)
100. 89/11 (13) HUNTER, Ian (44-8 (6) M, 22 (6) Bcktn, 23-3 (1) PC)
100. 83/17 (10) COYNE, John (26-3 (2) LA, 57-14 (8) BrC)

The one club men

NSL Players who have played more than 100 National League games with one club.

First figure denotes full appearances, second figure denotes appearances as substitutes, figure in brackets denotes number of NSL goals scored. Statistics compiled by Peter Desira.

ADELAIDE CITY
194+1 (4) Bugsy Nyskohus
162+13 (22) Sergio Melta
161+3 (53) John Nyskohus
127 (12) John Perin
124+9 (27) Brian Northcote
117+8 (16) Gary Marocchi
103+1 (6) Bobby Russell

BRISBANE CITY
193+4 (8) Frank Pimblett
155+5 (2) Steve Perry
140 Kim Wishart
121+1 (4) Billy Wilkinson
116+7 (12) Larry Gaffney
114+4 (19) Bobby Hamilton

BRISBANE LIONS
191+3 (9) Alan Niven
109+1 Nigel Lownds
107 (9) Jim Hermiston
105+3 Steve Hogg

CANBERRA
152+1 (39) Terry Byrne
106 Steve Hoszowski

FOOTSCRAY
166+3 (31) Zdravko Lujic
157+9 (3) Igor Hazabent
157+2 (16) Jim Kondarios
141+8 (16) Zoran Ilioski
100 (20) Joe Picioane

HEIDELBERG-ALEXANDER
177+5 (52) Jim Campbell
175+2 (88) Gary Cole
156+12 (10) Theo Selemidis
152 (1) Arthur McMillan
139+6 (5) Jim Tansey
125 Jeff Olver
109+1 (5) Charlie Yankos
105+2 (3) Pat Bannon
103+17 (15) Ken Taylor

APIA LEICHARDT
137+1 (7) Terry Butler
123+4 (2) Mark Pullen
108+2 (34) John Bradley
102 (2) Peter Wilson

MARCONI
163+9 (78) Mark Jankovics
159 Allan Maher
155+3 (46) Peter Sharne
142+4 (11) Tony Henderson
141 Ivo Prskalo
135 (3) Paul Degney
114 (21) Gary Byrne
103+26 (21) Bertie Mariani

NEWCASTLE
131+10 (11) Craig Mason
125+12 (21) Joe Senkalski
124 (19) Roy Drinkwater
119+10 (17) David Jones
113+1 Phil Dando
101+2 (11) Col Curran

SOUTH MELBOURNE
149 Peter Laumets
140+2 (10) Alan Davidson
128 (4) Arthur Xanthopoulos
124+5 (5) Steve Blair
109+3 (12) Billy Rogers
102+3 (36) Alun Evans
101+3 (17) George Campbell

ST GEORGE BUDAPEST
154+2 (9) John O'Shea
124+1 (7) Robert O'Shead
100+2 (4) Peter Stone

SYDNEY CITY HAKOAH
205+6 (24) Joe Watson
183+4 (52) Murray Barnes
181+4 (9) Steve O'Connor
140 Todd Clarke
122+9 (5) Kevin Mullen
118+5 Alec Robertson
109 (69) John Kosmina
104+2 (2) Ian Bruce
103+11 (23) Ian Souness
101 (24) John Stevenson

SYDNEY OLYMPIC
144+1 Gary Meier
140+2 (12) Graham Jennings
134+4 (11) Peter Raskopoulos
117+3 (33) Peter Katholos

WEST ADELAIDE-HELLAS
194+5 (33) Graham Honeyman
184+8 (14) Ian McGregor
164+1 Martyn Crook
132+2 (10) Neil McGachey

Joe Watson

Aussies taste the euphoria of Beckenbauer

By GEOFF STEAD

An uncharacteristic change has come over the West Geman national team since Franz Beckenbauer took control more than six months ago — and football fans across the country are loving it.

For a start, the side has a good chance of qualifying for the World Cup finals in Mexico next year but, more importantly, Beckenbauer wants West Germans to be part of the bid.

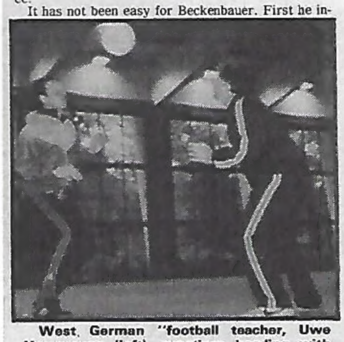
He is taking the team to the public and the supporters are relishing every moment.

It is a stark change from previous coaching regimes where typical German organisation meant the team was largely kept behind closed doors. Their job was to play football, not fraternise with the fans.

But Beckenbauer is a man of modern times and admits such practices are attitudes of the past. "The national team must be an extension of the people," he says.

And when possibly the greatest footballer the world has known invites the fans to take part in the country's World Cup bid, the reaction is enormous. Thousands are turning out to watch training sessions and tickets for home matches are sold out weeks in advance.

It has not been easy for Beckenbauer. First he incurred the wrath of the country's top "football teachers", who have studied for years for their coaching qualifications and were most perturbed when Beckenbauer, with not one certificate to his credit, got the country's top job.



West German "football teacher, Uwe Hausmanns (left), practices heading with Queensland under 15 coach George Pagan in the magnificent indoor soccer stadium at Hennef.

The solution offered by the DFB, the ruling national body, was to call Beckenbauer "team chief" and leave the "coaching" to Horst Koppel, Beckenhauer's highly qualified and well respected right hand man.

Then, in the first game under Beckenbauer, West Germany played an uninspiring scoreless draw. It was hardly the start the fans had been expecting.

But late last year, when the World Cup qualifying matches started, and when it counted most, things came together. Most who saw the game will remember a relieved Beckenbauer wiping his brow as he stepped from the dugout after West Germany scored its first goal mid-way through the second half.

It was the turning point for West Germany, which had started to become bogged in a slump on the world football scene.

And 12 young Queenslanders were given the unique and unforgettable opportunity of not only witnessing the euphoria — but they were able to play a part in it.

The youngsters were taking part in the third annual Lufthansa-sponsored soccer tour to West Germany. The independently-organised tours are the brainchild of former State League coach George Pagan and sports addict Bill James, from Lufthansa.

The pair took a risk when they first took a side to West Germany three years ago, but the tours have been one success after another. As an observer and player on last year's tour, I can easily vouch that the facilities and level of coaching offered could not be bettered.

As in the previous two years, the tour was based at the well-appointed Hennef Sportschule — one of the best soccer training venues in West Germany.

And for the first three days of their 10-day stay, the youngsters could hardly believe who were their coboarders at the school. There, walking in the same corridors, eating in the same dining halls and using the same training facilities were players they had only seen in glossy soccer magazines.

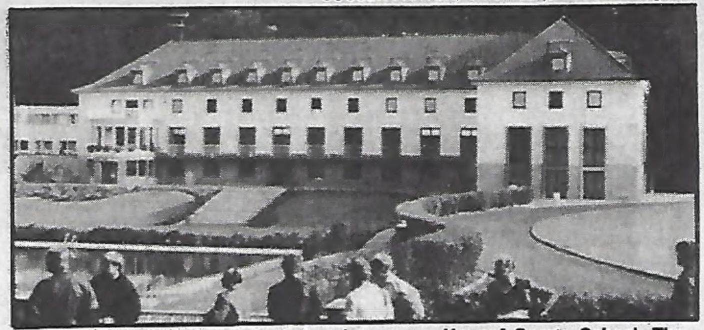
Rummenige, Forester, Schumacher, Allofs and Beckenbauer himself to name but a few, and they were all ready and willing to give a quick smile, stop for an autograph or pose for a photo.

And when the youngsters trained on a field alongside the Germans, the 3000-strong crowd that turned up to watch the national team peered inquisitively at the Australians.

"It was one of those experiences of a lifetime," tour leader Pagan said.

To cap the experience, tickets were arranged for the Queenslanders and they cheered alongside 60,000 as West Germany scored a 2-0 win over lack-lustre and defensive Sweden.

The match was indeed an experience, but only one of many highlights of the tour.



The accommodation hall at the picturesque Hennef Sports School. The early morning shot shows some of the earlybirds, who had gathered from dawn, in the hope of seeing some of the West German national team players staying at Hennef.

One lunch time the youngsters were visited by former FIFA staff coach Dettmar Cramer. The bubbling Cramer, who made a coaching tour of Australia more than 20 years ago, is still one of the best known soccer identities in West Germany and now coaches First Division side FC Leverkusen.

Cramer invited a small group to attend a training session and Pagan was among those who witnessed a steaming two-hour indoor fitness workout that included aerobics, weights and sprints.

"It was a delight to watch such professionalism from Cramer and his players. There was no messing about, they were there with a job to do and did it in the most efficient manner possible," Pagan said.

And staying at Hennef awoke the young Queenslanders, whose ages range from 14 to 22 years, to the facilities that are available to soccer players in other countries.

The Hennef sports school quite simply is a soccer player's delight.

The school is owned by the Mid-Rhine Federation, which boasts more than 600 clubs. The clubs contributed funds to build the facility more than 20 years ago. The only government assistance was a handout from West Germany Football Lotto.

Now the sports school is virtually self-funding as the Mid-Rhine Federation has opened the doors of the complex to every sport.

Less wealthy sports can't afford the facilities but they don't begrudge paying for them. And as the school is near fully booked the entire year, returns go close to covering running costs.

But soccer is the main sport at the school and groups use it for a wide range of activities including match preparation, intensive training, coaching courses and skill clinics.

The big attraction is that Hennef offers hote-style accommodation and meals with world-class training facilities outdoors — and indoors.

Set deep in a lush pine forest, Hennef is a training paradise. There is accommodation for 250 people and each room has its own toilet and shower.

Although primarily a soccer training facility, with one indoor and four outdoor fields, Hennef also boasts an indoor swimming pool, indoor and outdoor tennis and basketball courts and a gymnasium hall which can cater for sports ranging from aerobics to wrestling.

And it is not unique. The school is one of nearly a dozen throughout West Germany.

The young Queenslanders, who came from as far as Cairns and Rockhampton as well as Brisbane, practised twice daily for 10 days under the expert tuition of highly qualified West Germany Uwe Hausmanns, who has coached all three Lufthansa soccer tours to Hennef.

Hausmanns, who presently coaches top amateur side FC Bonner but is tipped to break into the "big time" soon, is one of 700 "football teachers" in West Germany. It is the top level in soccer coaching and the title is awarded only after years of experience and an intensive six-month course.

And to keep them abreast of modern developments, football teachers must sit for a 60-hour refresher course every six months — usually at one of the sports schools.

The benefit of Hausmanns' expertise, combined with the enthusiasm of the Queenslanders, proved a winning formula.

Although many of the players met each other for the first at the airport when they left Brisbane, they combined into a team which won four of its five games against local West Germany sides.

The "Queensland team", which also had to adapt fo playing at first on soft well-grassed fields, then on the all-weather "ash" surfaces used extensively across West Germany, scored an amazing 15 goals. The team's last two games were 4-1 and 5-1 romps while the side's only loss was a narrow 1-2 defeat at the hands of the skilful and typically well-drilled FC Merl.

The players too had to adapt to the man-on-man marking system preached by Hausmanns and were asked to concentrate on ball control and skill. They were drilled repeatedly in feinting, turning and beating their man, then unloading or shooting.

When it attacked, the side spread wide searching for gaps in the opposing defence and when it lost the ball it quickly contracted into defensive fans rotating out from the goal.

The system was a lot different to the style played by many of the boys before, but Hausmanns' great ability is to get his ideas across simply and quickly and by the end of the tour, the Queenslanders were a well-drilled outfit.

"Every year I have taken sides away, the boys seem to rally together in the games and surprise the West Germans with their commitment and enthusiasm. This year's side was no exception and I am sure all the boys returned to Australia as better players," Pagan said.

Plans are already underway for another tour to Hennef this year and organisers plan to extend their network to attrack players from interstate. Already 26 players from Victoria have indicated interest in the tour and it seems several touring teams will be formed this year.

• Anyone interested in obtaining further details on this year's tour can telephone (07) 229 2666 (Bill James) or (07) 311 451 (George Pagan).

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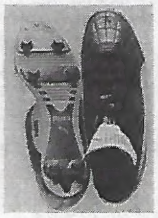

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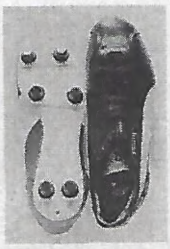

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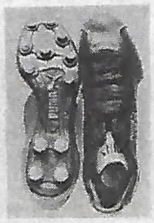

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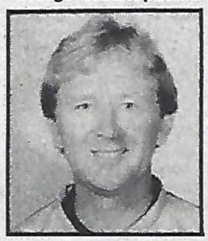
Christopoulos fuming over all the red tape

George Christopoulos



Doug Collins

By CRAIG MACKENZIE

George Christopoulos is angry and frustrated.

Angry with the stance adopted by Canberra coach Doug Collins over Christopoulos's pending transfer to Heidelberg and frustrated by an NSL ruling which stops Heidelberg signing new players until its debt to the league is sorted out.

Once West Nally's $240,000 sponsorship money for the NSL fell through last year, the league was forced to impose a $10,000 levy on its 24 member clubs. As we went to Press, Heidelberg and South Melbourne Hellas were the only Victorian clubs yet to arrange a scheme of payment for the $10,000.

Informed sources at league headquarters in Sydney tell us that all both clubs need do is make a phone call and agree on a scheme of payment of the $10,000. A simple task, it seems, yet apparently one as yet beyond the administrative capacity at either Heidelberg or Hellas.

And the NSL's constitution states that no new players will be registered with a club which owes money to the league.

Which all adds up to an annoying period in limbo for Christopoulos, who has made 13 Socceroo appearances, played for Victoria, Hellas, Canberra and Greek First Division club AEK Athens and is champing at the bit to pull on a Heidelberg strip.

"I spoke to Doug Collins last week and I got a bit angry with him. Heidelberg have been trying to get in touch with him but they get no response, so they get in touch with committeemen. The next thing you hear is that Doug Collins is annoyed that Heidelberg isn't negotiating with him because he's got full power over buying and selling players. It's bloody ridiculous," said Christopoulos.

"I'm ready to play. I've been training with Heidelberg since just after Christmas and I like what I see. There aren't any smart-arse types playing there, not like at a lot of other clubs. The lads at Heidelberg don't moan about being dropped and I really think that the side is in for a good year."

Heidelberg wanted Christopoulos to appeal against the $20,000 put on his head by Canberra but Christopoulos refused, even though Canberra received $10,000 last year in a loan payment for his services from AEK Athens.

"I've had enough of tribunals. They're just not fair as far as I'm concerned. When I joined Canberra from Hellas I had a $10,000 maximum transfer fee clause in my contract but Hellas won their case at the tribunal which ruled that I should be valued at $20,000. I was staggered, but Canberra was silly enough to pay the money."

Christopoulos returned from Greece last year and played the last 10 games of the NSL season with Canberra.

"I agreed to play with Canberra for only basic match payments. I told Doug Collins that I would be leaving at the end of the season and he said that he wouldn't be putting an unreasonable fee on my head.

"AEK's already given Canberra $10,000 for me as a loan payment, so I don't understand why Canberra is asking Heidelberg to pay $20,000."

No-one wants to lead Hellas

The immediate future of 1984 Australian champion South Melbourne Hellas is uncertain following the decision of president Leo Anezakis not to stand for re-election at the club's annual general meeting on Sunday, February 17.

"My business is suffering and I must devote much more time to it," said Anezakis, who has spent 10 years in an administrative capacity with Hellas.

"I've had my ups and downs but at least I've finished on a high note. I've left the club with 11 top players and a champion coach."

The problem now faced by Hellas is that no-one seems keen on assuming the presidential responsibilities.

"There could be big trouble at the meeting," said Anezakis.

It's believed that Hellas has a $50,000 overdraft but knowing the loyalty and size of the support enjoyed by the club, that overdraft can be wiped off easily.

If the AGM fails to find a successor to Anezakis and an appeal is made to him to remain, would be respond favorably?

"I don't know. I just don't know. Everything is up in the air," he said.

CRAIG MACKENZIE

Blacktowns' Knight an Aussie rep

By ALEX VESIC

Stephen Knight, one of the most promising youngsters on the NSW scene, is set to make the big time with Blacktown City in the NSL. Transferred from State League club Auburn during December, Knight was delighted to have found a place in an NSL outfit.

Raised at Sydney Olympic among an array of youth players such as Koussas, Dakos, Kalantzis and Patalis, Knight was regarded as the most promising. However, he surprised by moving to State League club Ku-Ring-Gai in 1983, then Auburn in 1984, making a sound contribution to the success of these two sides.

He was picked for the indoor NSW State side, then for an Australian indoor representative team which toured New Zealand at the end of last year.

New Zealand had eight representative players just back from a tour of England on duty in this tournament!

That didn't do much to deter the enthusiasm of the young Aussie team which won the last match against New Zealand 2-0 to win the seies 5-4.

If this is an indication of New Zealand's strength, then Frank Arok will surely have nothing to worry about.

Would the new Demon like to play for Australia?

"I'd love to, but I'd prefer to take one thing at a time. See how I fare with Blacktown, then I'll think about the rest," said Knight.

Steve Knight (right) with Allan Beck, a fellow member of the 1984 Australian indoor soccer team.

Indoor soccer has world at its feet

Twenty-one Victorian indoor soccer players in various age groups have been selected to represent Australia in forthcoming overseas tours.

The Australian Indoor Soccer Federation recently held its 3rd National Championships in Canberra, involving 127 teams from centres throughout Australia. Over 1200 players competed in a fiercely contested tournament, with the Victorian under 15 boys winning their section.

Five State teams, 11 club teams, the Latrobe Valley, Geelong, Bendigo and Bayswater competed, and the following players have been selected in the 1985 Australian teams:

All age men — Harry Bingham, Nigel Browne, Paul Brabbin and Frank Diguilio.

All Age Women — Marie van Egmond, Anne Bawden, Suzanne Cassar.

Youth under 20 — Dion Tanti, Mark Cassar, Anthony Cassar.

Junio Youth 17-18 — John Perra, Mark, Aretis, Michael Psihoundakas.

Boys Under 16 — Vlado Semjanic, Jerry Graljuk, Robert Noggler, Joseph Zadkovic, Tony Neal, Angelo Christodoulos, Craig Whitehouse.

Boys Under 15 — Rodney Rowe.

The Australian President, Joe Brent of Sydney, has just returned from a world trip, organising the 1985 itinerary for the teams as follows.

All Age Men — Spain for World Indoor Soccer Cup organized by Fifusa.

All Age Women — Holland.

Youth under 20 — Brazil.

Junior Youth 17-18 — Holland and England.

Boys Under 16 — Against Italy in Australia.

Boys Under 15 — Japan.

Boys Under 14 — Japan.

The All Age Mens' team will be coached by John Major of the Latrobe Valley who coached both the Victorian and Latrobe Valley teams during the national championships.

Bye Metro, hello Vic

The Metropolitan League no longer exists. Renamed the Victorian League, most of its member clubs get their first taste of action this year when the first and second preliminary rounds of the 1985 Dockerty Cup kick off.

And Industrial League champion Leeco Holdings and Latrobe Valley League champion Fortuna will compete in the Dockerty Cup for the first time.

All leagues affiliated with the VSF are invited to send their champion teams to participate in the Dockerty Cup.

The draw for the first preliminary round to be played on Saturday, February 16, is:

Geelong v Werribee, East Brunswick v Nunawading City, Hamlyn Rangers v Bulleen, Altona City v Bell Park, Mornington v Caulfield City, Leeco Holdings v Springvale United, Ringwood United v Keysborough, Coburg v Moreland.

The draw for the second preliminary round, to be played on Saturday, February 23, is:

Geelong or Werribee v Lalor United, Ardeer v Hamlyn Rangers or Bulleen, Mornington or Caulfield City v Ringwood United or Keysborough, Coburg or Moreland v East Brunswick or Nunawading City, Leeco Holdings or Springvale United v Kew Park Rangers, Corio v Moorabbin, Mooroolbark v Altona City or Bell Park, Yallourn v Boronia, Dandenong City v Langwarrin, Altona Gate v Prahran Slavia, SM-Mordialloc v South Oakleigh, Ballarat v Sunbury, Fortuna v Doncaster Rovers, Holland Park v Waverley City.

Lawson, Traikovski, Heery on move

The Victorian leagues

• Doncaster Rovers' new coach, Billy Millen, was trying to sign defender Steve Lawson from Bell Park as we went to press.

There's just $500 on the head of the former Slavia and George Cross player.

Transfer-listed Croydon fullback Mike Rainey trained with Rovers two weeks ago but Millen isn't confident about winning Rainey's services.

Rovers have lost striker Chris Middlemast, who has returned to Nunawading City, and Keith Humble looks likely to join Springvale City.

Off the field, however, Rovers are in far better shape and hope to complete the building of their $300,000 clubrooms by June.

• Sunbury was trying to sign goalkeeper George Paton from Coburg and midfielder George Traikovski from Melbourne as we went to press.

Coach Mike Lynn has retained last year's first team squad and is confident of success.

"Sunbury is the best organised club I've been associated with," said Lynn.

Up front, Lynn has four players vying for regular first-team spots. They are: Steve McMillan (ex-Albion Rovers), Sabbie Magnano (Thomastown), local player Martin Catterson and former Prahran City striker Danny Tracey.

• Melbourne has signed Tony Heery, last year's Metro Third Division best and fairest player, from Prahran Celtic and Gerry Edmondson from Doveton but Ernie Tapai has joined Footscray J.U.S.T. and goalkeeper Ernie Toth is holidaying overseas.

Player-coach Paddy Bannon was trying to sign Tibor Drinozcky, a tall central defender, and Joe Kiss from Sunbury.

Utility player Phillip Diamataris also could join Melbourne. He's appealing against the transfer fee put on his head by Caulfield City.

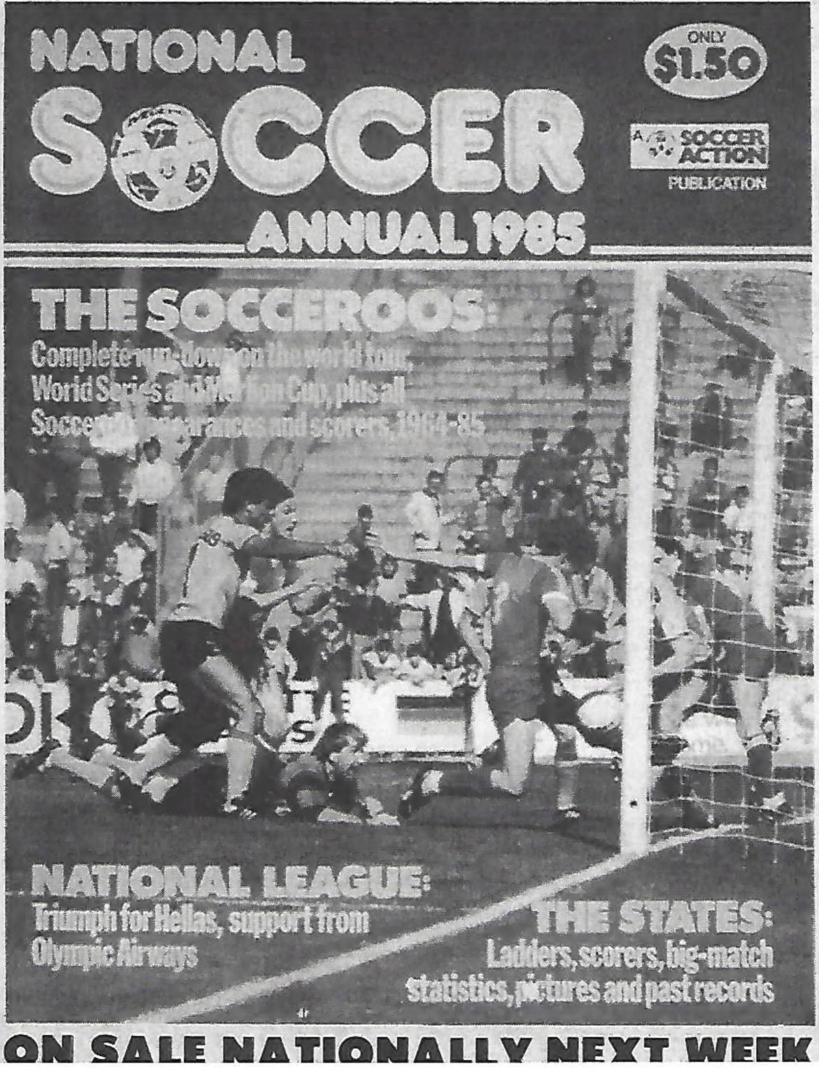
Melbourne defeated South Oakleigh 3-0 in a friendly game last Saturday. Heery scored twice and Bannon got the other goal.

• A president-coach, that's the novel set-up at Kew Park Rangers where Alby McCormack will be a very busy man both on and off the field. Mick Walsh is reserves team coach.

Andy Smale has joined new State League club Thomastown and Kew is on the lookout for a central defender and a striker.

• Lalor United Sloga coach John Kalincev was trying to sign Jim Balevski from Preston Makedonia and Chris Karamitanis from Thomastown as we went to press.

Lalor now boasts new $400,000 clubrooms, courtesy of the Whittlesea Shire.



COACH WANTED

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New players most welcome

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EDITOR: Laurie Schwab
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Craig MacKenzie
MANAGING EDITOR: Leonard J. Shaw
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Phillip Diamataris
NEW SOUTH WALES: Gordon Durnford, The Globe Bridge Co, 64 Victoria St, North Sydney 2060. Phone: (02) 957 2033
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THE HILLS ARE ALIVE . . .

Aussies get set for world under 16 cup in China

Australia, Hungary, Bolivia, the U.S. and host nation China have qualified for the inaugural World Cup finals for under-16's to be held from July 31 to August 11 this year.

European play-offs get underway shortly and at FIFA headquarters in Zurich in May, the draw will be made, splitting the 16 finalists into four groups of four.

Australia qualified by winning the Oceania tournament in December, 1983, in New Zealand. Australia defeated Tahiti 9-0, New Caldeonia 4-0, Fiji 4-1, Taiwan 3-0 and New Zealand 2-1 in the final.

"Had we have taken our chances in the first half, New Zealand wouldn't have been game to come out for the second half," said Vic Dalgleish, coach of the Australian team.

Dalgleish and his train-on squad of 24 recently spent two weeks in camp in Sydney, aided by coaches Brian Williamstown (NSW), John Haynes (NSW), Alan Alexander (Victoria) and Bobby Goodwin (ACT).

Dalgleish takes his squad to the Institute of Sport in Canberra during the second week of the May school holidays and hopes to spend another week or 10 days in camp before going to China. At the Institute Dalgleish will finalise his 18-member squad. His current squad is:

GOALKEEPERS: **Steve Niscoli** (SA), **Neal Cotgrove** (Q'land), **George Bouhoutsios** (NSW).

DEFENDERS: **Damien Butler** (Q'land), **Tony Razmonski, Gavin Parry** (NNSW), **Gareth Naven** (WA), **George Jolevski, Robert Runje, Stan Thodis** (Vic), **David Scott, David Barrett** (NSW).

MIDFIELDERS: **Craig Foster, Michael Graham** (NNSW), **Mark Talagich** (Vic), **Brett Thomson** (SA), **Craig Naven, Dean Nicolaou** (WA).

FORWARDS: **Scott Racey** (WA), **Justin Davis, David Aranyi** (NNSW), **Paul Trimboli, Colin Cooper** (Vic).

"I've picked the squad on skill first, then I've looked at the physical attributes of the players and their versatility. Most of the lads can play in different positions which is going to be invaluable if the usual injury worries crop up, or even suspensions," said Dalgleish.

"Kids in Australia are equal to anything anywhere else. It's the coaching, or the lack of it, that holds them back and stops many of them developing to the same extent that many youngsters do in other parts of the world."

Dalgleish has an outstanding record in junior coaching here. In 1976, he led the NSW under-12's to victory in the national titles, repeated the dose with the under-13's the following year, the under-14's in 1978 and the NSW under-15's in 1979. He came to Australia in 1972 from his native Scotland and has coached Auburn, Melita Eagles and Kuringai at senior level.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Saints, Croatia beaten, Jurin hurt

Star striker Zeljko Jurin suffered a bad injury as his side, Sydney Croatia, joined fellow National Leaguers St. George and Wollongong on the losers' list in the 1985 NSW Ampol Cup.

The extent of Jurin's injury wasn't known as we went to press but Croatia officials were worried that he might be sidelined for quite some time.

A nail-biting finish to the Croatia v Melita Eagles clash saw Melita win 4-2 on penalties and secure a quarter-final berth.

St. George, the pre-season favourite for the Ampol Cup stumbled against an understrength Hakoah at St. George Stadium and the home side looked vulnerable at the back with Mike O'Shea and David Ratliffe making an unusual number of errors.

Hakoah now meets APIA in the quarter-finals and must be favored to win a semi-final spot.

AUSTRALIAN AMPOL OWNED

NSW AMPOL CUP

BY ALEX VESIC

QUARTER FINALS

This Friday at Marconi Stadium:

7.00pm: Blacktown City v Avala.

8.30pm Penrith City v Melita Eagles.

This Sunday at St George Stadium:

4.30pm: Rockdale Ilinden v Manly Warringah.

6.00pm: Hakoah v APIA.

ST GEORGE 1 (Cotton 65th) HAKOAH 2 (Fletcher 50th, Lee 57th) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 1,500. Referee Tim Davies 8.

ST. GEORGE: Greedy 8 — Skeen 8, Ratcliffe 6, M. O'Shea 6, Koczka 6 — J. O'Shea 5 (Ricoy 54th), Stone 6, Barton 7 — Slater 5, Cotton 7, Marton 6.

HAKOAH: Clarke 8 — Rodrigues 7, Gomez 8, Paterson 6, De Marigny 6 — Bottalico 7, K. Falconer 6, P. Falconer 6 — Murray 5, Fletcher 7 (68th Foxman), Lee 7.

AVALA 3 (Bratkovic 35th, 69th, Ismail o.g. 73rd) BANKSTOWN NATIONAL 1 (Lembryk o.g. 51st) at St George Stadium. Crowd: 1,500. Referee: Arthur Owens 7.

AVALA: Ahrens 8 — Lucchesi 6, Lembryk 7, Stjelja 6, Da Silva 6 — Cootes 6, Brown 7, Tracey 8 — Nedic (Carney 10th, 6), Milne 5 (Deller 57th), Bratkovic 8.

BANKSTOWN NATIONAL: Maamary 7 — Agostino 5 (Kamaledine 77th), Meerbani 8, Ismail 5 — Rajab 6, Hassim 6, Lahoud 6 — Hammoud 7 (Stefanos 59th) Hassan 7, El Hosseini 5.

MELITA EAGLES 1 (Walker 16th) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Patikas 33rd). After extra time. Melita won 4-2 on penalties. At Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 3,050. Referee: Peter Rampley 9.

MELITA: Griffin 8 — O'Rourke 6, Wilson 8, McCoy 7, McPherson 7 — McAusland 7, Laing 6, Allan 7 — McKie 6, Walker 6, Vial 6.

CROATIA: Woodhouse 7 — A. Kovacic 7, Basic 8, Vidaic 7, Tomasich 7 — Woods 7 (Meads 54th, 6), M. Kovacic 8, Patikas 7, Savor 7 — Jurin 8 (73rd Rezo), Arnold 5.

PENRITH 1 (Nix 10th) WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 3,050. Referee: Ken Small 7.

PENRITH: Gibson 8 — Brogan 7, McIntosh 8, Campbell 7, Cross 6 — Carbone 5, Tooher 5, Lowe 5 (Shute 53rd) — Hunter 6 (Felix 70th), Nix 6, Easthorpe 6.

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff 7 — Green 6 (Brodnik 60th), Condron 7, Vlietstra 7, Dummett 7 — Kerr 7, Godzik 6, Bundalo 7 — Kotamanidis 5, Willis 7, Giannone 5.

Hakoah 2 St. George 1

With a strong wind at its back St. George had the territorial advantage and the chances to go with it during the first period.

Robert Slater ran through the Hakoah defence early in the piece but shot wide with only Todd Clarke to beat.

In the 15th minute, Andy Koczka took a free kick 18 metres from goal but a deflection saw the ball fly inches wide. Only a minute later Dez Marton blasted his volley well over from a cross by Roy Cotton.

Hakoah came back through Graham Fletcher on the right flank. It was a fine run with Koczka and Mike O'Shea struggling to keep Fletcher at bay. O'Shea tripped the Hakoah youngster inside the area, but Peter Falconer's penalty kick was saved by Terry Greedy.

Hakoah pushed three men forward and 10 minutes into the second period, it scored. Keith Falconer found an unmarked Fletcher and Greedy could do little to stop the left footer by the youngster.

Seven minutes later, Grant Lee buried St. George with his left footer after a long clearance by Clarke eluded this shaky Saints defence.

cotton made it 1-2 with 15 minutes left then Koczka calmly pushed his shot at Clarke when the home side looked set to take the clash into extra time.

Tony O'Shana (Uruguayans)

Avala 3 Bankstown 1

The tricolours from Cabramatta struggled against Bankstown National for over an hour then stormed home to register an easy 3-1 win.

For most of the first half it was Bankstown which showed more purpose and skill and threatening Peter Ahrens in goal for Avala. With a very strong wind at its back, Avala looked sluggish and almost fell behind after a fine shot by Peter Hassan looked destined for the top left hand corner, but Ahrens showed his class making a brilliant save.

And as so often happen's in soccer, Avala scored from a counter-attack.

Micky Bratkovic ran past Ismail before gliding his left footer under the keeper.

Bankstown failed to adjust to playing with the wind and the game deteriorated into a scrappy affair until a cross by Hassan found Avala's captain John Lembryk some seven metres from goal. Lembryk was deceived by the wind, sending his header past Ahrens into his own net.

When most felt that Avala was going to be beaten, Don Brown chimed into the attack sending Bratkovic racing forward. The Avala youngster outpaced Agostino then beat Maamary to give his side the lead.

With seven minutes left, Da Silva crossed from the left and Ismail, in attempting to clear, found the corner of his own net to close the scoring.

Melita 1 Croatia 1

"What on earth do we have to do to score a goal..." uttered one of the Croatia officials after the match. "We played better, we created chances, then we threw it all away," concluded Croatia's coach Vedran Rozic.

And they weren't wrong!

Croatia should have wrapped up this game well inside the distance. Jimmy Patikas, the man who caused a stir by moving from Sydney Olympic for $25,000, played very well during this encounter, but was the main culprit in front of goal, despite being Croatia's solitary scorer.

He missed a sitter in the 9th minute as if to suggest that more of the same was about to come. He was only ten metres out and just had Giffin to beat but screwed his shot wide.

Giffin denied Marijan Kovacic, Croatia's best player on the day, a few minutes later with a brilliant save.

Then Bruno Vidaic missed the ball close to his area and Barry Walker was free to charge forward and beat the advancing Greg Woodhouse.

With seven minutes left in this half, Croati levelled when Patikas found the net from 15 metres after a scramble inside Melita's penalty area.

Steve Meades came on for Brett Woods midway through the second half and was immediately in the thick of things. His miss from close range was inexplicable, just as were those by Wally Savor and Patikas in extra time. In fact, Savor will remember his miss for a long time to come. He rounded the keeper and faced an empty net but shot wide!

Patikas missed again, close to the end, then came the penalties showdown.

Melita scored through O'rourke and Croatia replied through Patikas. Melita made it 2-1 through Walker then came Giffin's save from David Rezo's attempt and defeat was staring Croatia in the face. But a miss by Vial and a conversion from Marijan Kovacic levelled the showdown. McKie scored for Melita to make it 3-2 then Graeme Arnold missed with his attempt and Ken Wilson gave Melita a 4-2 win on penalties by scoring from the spot.

Penrith 1 Wollongong 0

Wollongong bowed out of this year's Ampol Cup despite being the better team for most of this match.

Some frantic action inside Penrith City's half, particularly during the second period, saw Wollongong players within a touch of the goal-line but the finishing was not there and Penrith's solitary effort through Peter Nix took the side through to the quarter-finals.

Easthorpe made a fine break on the left hand side in the 10th minute before crossing low into the area. Natch Vardareffs despairing dive did not prevent the ball from going through to Nix to tuck it away at the far post.

Both sides struggled for the rest of the first half with Wollongong taking hold of this match in the second period. Fine work by Bundalo, Kerr, Willis and Hristovski, saw chances come thick and fast, but bad luck and poor finishing plagued Wollongong.

South Australian Ampol Cup with ALLAN CRISP

PARA HILLS 1 (D. Miller 41st), WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS 0, second game of a double header at Hindmarsh Stadium.

PARA HILL'S: Simpson 8, Brooks 7, Humphreys 9, Cole 7, Harvey 7, Bojczuk 8, Green 7, Tomlinson 8, D. Miller 8, Archer 7 (Gough 63rd), Crook 8, Coach: David Jenkins.

WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS: Sproul 8, McGregor 7, Hiern 8, Matiscsak 7 (Price 22nd) 7, Brown 8, Mousoulis 6, Atsalas 8, Honeyman 6, Panagis 8 (Manou 52nd) 7, Malavozos 6, Konstandopoulos 7. Coach: Neil McGachey.

Para Hills are alive with the sound of success after this sensational upset win over NSL rival West Adelaide Hellas.

New Para coach David Jenkins reaped the reward for some exhaustive research on his opposition as he closed down the Hellas hotshots and motivated his players to hustle and chase for the entire 80 minutes.

Energetic striker David Miller netted the winner a minute after half time when he raced onto a great midfield through ball from Azzurri acquisition Wally Bojczuk to beat Gary Sproul in the West goal with a ground shot.

With every one of West's five midfielders expertly marked, Para denied its vaunted rival easy access in the centre of the park and Hellas strikers George Konstandopoulos and Nick Malvazos were starved up front.

The result provided a disappointing start for new Hellas coach Neil McCachey, who said after the game: "What can you do when your players can't deliver an accurate pass from four yards? We have a lot of hard work in front of us."

BIRKALLA 3 (Hayes 26th and 55th, Briscoe 6th), BEOGRAD 2 (Arezina 23rd and 64th). First game of a double header at Hindmarsh Stadium.

BIRKALLA: Johnson 7, Pietrus 7, Duncan 8, Mohring 8, G. Pankhurst 7, Hayes 9, Owers 7, O'Brien 6, T. McAuliffe 7, Mahony 7, Briscoe 8. Coach: Bobby Ferguson.

BEOGRAD: Flecknor 6 (Nesgos 56th) 7, Kalinovic 7, Hancar 7, Welsh 8, Jovanovic 8, Greaves 9, Toland 7, Douglas 6 (Evans 47th) 6, Krizman 6 (Rusmir 30th), 7, Arezina 8, Preston 8. Coach: Uros Zivkovic.

Terry Hayes, the pocket dynamo who slipped through the anxious fingers of West Adelaide Hellas, was the match winner in this thrill-packed affair.

Former Nottingham Forest striker Alby Briscoe gave Birkalla an early lead before Hayes displayed his deadly goalscoring accuracy with a goal in each half.

Beograd also had a hero in the shape of bulky front-runner Djuro Arezina, who kept the fans buzzing with goals either side of the interval.

Beograd, under new coach Uros Zivkovic, had the most polished midfielder on view in young Sean Greaves, who has blossomed since returning from the AIS in Canberra.

Para Hills striker Richard Preston made an encouraging debut for Beograd, but in the end it was new Birkalla coach Bobby Ferguson who emerged with the top debut honors.

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NORTHFIELD INDOOR SOCCER CENTRE

Violence, inflation plague Argentina

From CATESBY LEIGH
in BUENOS AIRES

High quality soccer in this country, many Argentines say, is a thing of the past, as is the ritual of father and son going to the stadium for the Sunday match.

British Railway employees introduced soccer — or futbol — late in the last century and it soon became a national passion. Argentina has demonstrated its soccer prowess as recently as 1978, when it won the all-important World Cup tourney.

An exodus of top Argentine players to other Latin American countries and Europe plus violence among club fanatics, along with the increasing popularity of sports such as tennis, are the causes of the sports decline here. Violence at soccer matches has caused six deaths and hundreds of injuries in the last two years.

Emigration of top soccer talent has reached the point where only one of 11 starters on the 1978 World Cup-winning team is currently playing in Argentina. The others are playing elsewhere in Latin America or in Europe, or have retired.

The vast majority of Argentina's roughly 45 professional soccer teams — 35 of them in the greater Buenos Aires area — are meanwhile beset by financial crises. Stadiums of once-brilliant clubs have been closed time and again by municipal authorities in recent years because their owners lacked the funds to make necessary repairs

The cause of Argentine soccer's woes is, in large part, the economic crisis that has plagued this country since 1980, a crisis whose depth is signaled by 1984's 650 percent-plus inflation rate.

"In other eras," says Jorge Bottaro, president of Club Independiente in Avellaneda, an industrial suburb of this capital. "There was a margin for error, but in this moment of great inflation, when debts are indexed (to the inflation rate), errors and whimsical revenue projections are paid for more painfully."

Independiente is one of only three or four of the 35 professional soccer teams in the greater Buenos Aires area considered to be in sound financial health.

"We didn't have any debt," Bottaro, 49, explains. "Those who have had debts haven't been able to get out from under."

In the late 1970's, Argentina's military government jacked up the value of the peso to make imports cheap, hoping thus to bring inflation down and force Argentine industry to be competitive.

Argentina's $45 billion foreign debt is one legacy of that policy which sucked dollars out of the country and then collapsed amidst drastic devaluations beginning in 1981. Argentine soccer clubs' economic woes are another by-product.

Teams that had attracted major talent by offering salaries of $10,000-20,000 a month, not including huge sign-on fees, found themselves unable to meet their payrolls.

Having agreed to pay a reported $10 million to acquire 20-year-old prodigy Diego Maradona in 1981, the once-legendary Boca Juniors were unable to make good on the deal and had to unload him on Barcelona in Spain, the following year.

Meanwhile, disorders at the stadiums became an increasingly serious problem in the wake of the 1982 Anglo-Argentine war over the Falkland Islands as supporters of opposing teams engage in increasingly violent confrontations.

The Barras, made up of young toughs, are given free admission to home games and free transport to away games by club directors, who reportedly see them as a combination of cheerleaders and bodyguards for their players. There have also been reports of these gangs being used to threaten players and trainers on behalf of club officials dissatisfied with their performance or salary demands.

The six fatalities and hundreds of injuries brought on by the Barras has led an increasing number of Argentines to stay away from soccer matches.

Bottaro, who notes that club officials in Argentina — unlike trainers and players — do not get paid, denies that team officials are responsible in any way for the violence.

"The club mounts the spectacle. The club puts the team in the stadium. The club pays its share for police and security, it puts barriers in the appropriate areas to prevent disturbances. Apart from that, the police have responsibility if disturbances occur," he says.

In the final minutes of a "B" division championship match last weekend, 167 policemen stood around the perimeter of a playing field in La Plata, a provincial capital 30 miles from here, seventeen of them had German Shepherds on a leash.

There were no violent incidents at the game, but the atmosphere was raucous nevertheless, firemen sprayed water into the bleachers before the game to cool fans off, as firecrackers galore shot forth from the stands. Members of Barra, the local team, meanwhile, frolicked with their clothes on in a half-full swimming pool on the stadium grounds.

So intense has soccer's domination of the Argentine sporting scene been that two major stadiums in Avellaneda — Independiente's and Racing Club's — stand a mere 200 yards from each other. But Racing's stadium has seen its 85,000 capacity reduced by over half due to the club's inability to afford structural repairs.

Francescoli, Platini

Francescoli

ENZO Francescoli — who played in the 1981 World Youth Championship in Australia — Theophile Abega and Michel Platini finished on top of international football's New Year honors list.

Platini retained his European Footballer of the Year title by a record margin. Only two of the 25 country-by-country judges polled by Paris magazine "France Football" failed to list him as their No. 1. They were the Portuguese and Swiss correspondents — who both placed him as No. 2.

European Footballer of the Year: 1. Michel Platini (Juventus, Fr) 128 pts. 2. Jean Tigana (Bordeaux, Fr) 57, 3. Preben Elkjaer (Verona, Den) 48. 4. Rush (Liverpool, Wales) 44. 5, Chalana (Bordeaux, Port) 18. 6,1 Souness (Sampdoria, Scot) 16. 7, Harald Schumacher (Koln, WG) 12. 8, K. H. Rummenigge (Inter, WG) 10. 9, Giresse (Bordeaux, Fr) 9. 10, Robson (Man Utd, Eng) 7. 11, Schuster (Barcelona, WG) 6. 12, Bossis (Nantes, Fr) and Scifo (Anderlecht, Bel) 5. 14, K. Allofs (Koln, WG), Briegel (Verona, WG), Cabrini (Juventus, It) and Jordao (Sporting, Port) 3 each. 18, J. Olsen (Man Utd, Den), M. Olsen (Anderlecht, Den), McStay (Celtic, Scot), Strachan (Man Utd, Scot) 2 each. 22, Dassayev (Spartak Moscow, SU), Hateley (Milan, Eng), Lung (Craiova, Run), Maceda (Gijon, Sp), Nilsson (IFK, Swe) 1 each.

Sth American Footballer of the Year. Top ten: 1, Enzo Francescoli (River Plate of Buenos Aires, Uru) 43 pts. 2, Ubaldo Fillol (Flamengo, Arg) 36.3, Richardo Bochini (Independiete, Arg) 25. 4, Rodolfo Rodreguez (Santos, Uru) 20. 5 Ricardo Gareca (Boca Juniors, Arg) and Hugo De Leon (Gremio, Uru) 17 each, 7 Jorge Burruchaga (Independiente, Arg) 13.8, Alberto Marcico (FC Oeste, Arg) 11, 9, Victor Diogo (Palmeiras, Uru) 8. 10. Fernando Morena (Penarol, Uru) and Eder (Atletico Mineiro, Brz) 7 each.

African Footballer of the Year. Top three: 1, Theophile Abega (Cameroon). 2 equal, Ibrahim Youssef (Egypt) and Antoine Bell (Cameroon).

SOCCER AROUND THE WORLD

SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONAL TEAM RECORDS 1984

	Home						Away					Total					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	%
Chile	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	75
Uruguay	7	3	1	0	6	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	1	9	3	71
Argentina	12	0	2	0	1	1	4	3	3	10	6	4	5	3	11	7	54
Colombia	6	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	50
Brazil	3	1	1	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	2	50
Ecuador	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	4	5	–	3	1	4	5	37.5
Peru	5	–	1	2	2	6	–	1	1	1	3	–	2	3	3	9	20

(Bolivia, Venezuela and Paraguay did not play full internationals during 1984.)

FRANCE BEST

FEW people this year will argue about who is the best side in Europe. France won the European Championship last June, and had a 12-game record of 100 per cent success.

EUROPEAN RANKINGS TABLE

		P	W	D	L	Goals	% success
1	France	12	12	0	0	27- 4	100
2	Scotland	6	4	1	1	15- 6	75.0
3	Italy	9	5	3	1	14- 4	72.2
4	Hungary	11	6	3	2	21-10	68.1
5	West Germany	11	7	1	3	15-11	68.1
6	Poland	13	6	5	2	16-10	65.3
7	Norway	10	5	3	2	8- 4	65.0
8	Czechoslovakia	7	4	1	2	10- 5	64.3
9	East Germany	9	5	1	3	20-12	61.1
10	Portugal	10	5	2	3	13-12	60.0
11	Northern Ireland	6	3	1	2	9- 6	58.3
12	Israel	7	2	4	1	8- 6	57.1
13	England	11	5	2	4	18- 8	54.5
14	Spain	13	5	4	4	16-12	53.8
15	Denmark	13	6	2	5	19-16	53.8
16	Holland	4	2	0	2	8- 4	50.0
17	Russia	7	3	1	3	10- 6	50.0
18	Austria	7	3	1	3	11- 8	50.0
19	Yugoslavia	9	4	1	4	12-21	50.0
20	Switzerland	8	2	3	3	4-11	43.7
21	Rumania	12	3	4	5	15-15	41.6
22	Greece	10	2	4	4	9-13	40.0
23	Belgium	10	3	2	5	10-16	40.0
24	Iceland	5	2	0	3	4- 7	40.0
25	Bulgaria	9	1	5	3	9- 8	38.8
26	Sweden	8	2	2	4	8- 7	37.5
27	Wales	8	2	2	4	5- 9	37.5
28	Turkey	10	3	1	6	7-22	35.0
29	Cyprus	7	1	2	4	5- 9	28.5
30	Finland	7	2	0	5	5-16	28.5
31	Eire	7	1	2	4	1- 8	28.5
32	Malta	4	0	0	4	3-13	0.0
33	Luxembourg	10	0	0	10	2-25	0.0
Also:							
	Albania	3	1	1	1	5- 5	
	Liechtenstein	1	0	0	1	0- 6	

Uruguay's team which beat England in Montevideo. Back: Rodriguez, Gutierrez, Acevedo, Montelongo, Martinez, Bossio, Cabrera. Front: Aguilera, Carrasco, Acosta, Perdomo.

Now Uruguay aims for World Cup

URUGUAY is the South American champion — a title it won by beating Brazil in the final in 1983 — and last year still had the best record among South American teams.

So the double World Cup winners (1930 and 1950) hope that they will not be absent from the World Cup finals for the third time running in Mexico next year.

Yet national team coach Omar Borras says he could form four national selections as good as he has at home from the numerous Uruguayan players with foreign clubs. The 25-man squad with which he expected to start training in January for World Cup qualifying games against Chile and Ecuador in March and April includes a full team (11) of players under contract to foreign clubs.

They are goalkeepers **Rodolfo Rodriguez** (with Santos in Brazil) and **Fernando Alves** (Paraguay), **Victor Diogo** and **Dario Pereira** (Brazil), **Venancio Ramos** (France) **Wilmar Cabrera** (Spain), **Amaro Vidal** (Colombia) **Jorge Da Silva** (Spain), **Enzo Francescoli** (Argentina), **Sergio Santini** (Colombia) and **Luis Acosta** (Mexico).

The squad is completed with home-based players **Jose Luis Sosa** (goal), **Nelson Gutierrez, Jose Russo, Cesar Vega, Eduardo Avecedo, Nestor Montelongo, Miguel Bossio, Ricardo Perdomo, Daniel Martinez, Jose Batista, Carlos Aguilera, Jorge Barrios, Mario Saralegui** and **Jose Salazar** with the majority from Penarol, followed by Nacional and Defensor, but curiously no reprenstatives from current humble first division champions Central Espanol.

Perhaps one of the stars of the team will be **Enzo Francescoli,** the lanky attacking half who plays for River Plate in Argentina where he was not only one of the first division's outstanding players, but also the league's leading scorer. Another could be the speedy **Carlos Aguilera,** second highest scorer in the last Uruguayan first division championship.

South American results, 1984: January, India 0 Argentina 1, Poland 1 Argentina 1, China 1 Argentina 0, El Salvador 0 Colombia 1

February: Peru 1 Honduras 3

June: Brazil 0 England 2, Uruguay 2 England 0, Chile 0 England 0, Brazil 0 Argentina 0, Brazil 1 Uruguay 0

July: Uruguay 1 Argentina 0

August: Argentina 0 Uruguay 0, Colombia 1 Peru 1, Peru 0 Colombia 0, Colombia 1 Argentina 0

September: Switzerland 0 Argentina 2, Belgium 0 Argentina 2, West Germany 1 Argentina 3, Mexico 1 Argentina 1, Uruguay 2 Peru 0

October: Peru 1 Uruguay 3, Mexico 1 Colombia 0, USA 1 Colombia 0, Argentina 1 Mexico 1, Chile 1 Mexico 0, Uruguay 1 Mexico 1

December: United States 0 Ecuador 0, United States 2 Ecuador 2

DERWALL AS ISTANBUL BOSS!

Some familiar faces turned up during the lucrative indoor soccer season in West Germany.

Former national team boss Jupp Derwall, for example, led an Istanbul city selection in front of 35,000 in West Berlin.

And in Frankfurt, indoor organisers enticed Beckenbauer, Overath, Grabowski and Emmerich out of retirement, to show off their skills.

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich, Schalke and VFL Bochum played free of charge in an indoor tournament to help Borussia Dortmund which was $4 million in debt.

Elsewhere, Karl-Heinz Feldkamp, 50, continues to prove that he is possibly the finest coach in West Germany. After success with Kaiserslautern and Arminia Bielefeld, Feldkamp has lifted Bayer Uerdingen to fourth place on the Bundesliga.

Uerdingen's stars are national team libero Matthias Herget, 29, formerly with Gelsenkirchen; defender Karl-Heinz Woehrlin, 27, from Second Division SC Freiburg; striker Friedhelm Funkel, 31, who is top scorer after returning from Kaiserslautern; and the Englishman Wayne Thomas who played for Peterborough.

The French magazine "Onze" has named four West German players in its European all-star selection. They are goalkeeper Tony Schumacher, Karl-Heinz Foerster, Hans-Peter Briegel and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

West Germany beat Malta 3-2 in their World Cup qualifying match in Malta, on a new grass surface, after leading 3-1. Coach Beckenbauer again opted for three defenders, four midfielders and three strikers but it was only after Olaf Thon came on as substitute at half time that the Germans put on the pressure.

FIFA NO TO ARGENTINA

Argentina's ambition of staging a world club championship in 1987 involving 12 of the world's top club's has been rejected by FIFA.

Preliminary talks have been held in Tokyo in the wake of Independientes 1-0 World Club Cup defeat of Liverpool. The Argentine association had hoped to collect 500,000 pounds through TV rights and sponsorship from an American car corporation

It had been hoped to use the 1978 World Cup venues in Buenos Aires, Rosario, Cordoba and Mar del Plata

But even before FIFA's negative verdict the format had provoked an outcry in football's Third World. The reason? Top clubs from North and Central America, Africa and Asia would have had to play off for the right to send to the finals . . . just one team.

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Countdown to Mexico '86

Billed as the "30 days of Mexico", the timetable for the 1986 world cup finals has been announced by soccer's world gov-earning body, FIFA.

The competition, involving 24 teams playing 52 games in nine cities, opens on May 31 next year, when Italy begins its defence of the title.

Over the next 13 days, 35 more group matches will be staged before the competition becomes a knock-out.

After a rest day, 16 teams will go into a second round played between June 15 and 18.

Two rest days will precede the quarter-finals, due to be staged on June 21 and 22 and after two more rest days, the semi-finals will be held on June 25.

The two teams to contest the third-fourth place play-off will have two more days to prepare before their match on June 28 and the final will be held on June 29.

Both the opening game and the final will be held at the 110,000 seater Aztec Stadium in Mexico City.

The timetable has been published in "FIFA Magazine" and one of its editors, Guido Tognoni, said the framework of the group matches hould avoid a repeat of the West Germany-Austria match at the last finals in Spain 1982, when both teams knew exactly what they needed to achieve in the game in order to qualify for the next round.

The game lost its competitive edge when the Germans led 1-0, a scoreline which meant both teams would qualify.

"The third set of matches in each group will take place at the same time," said Tognoni. "In this way all the teams will have to play at full power."

Let's look at the qualifying timetable.

1986 WORLD CUP
Qualifying rounds
EUROPE

Group 1 (Poland, Belgium, Greece, Albania)

17.10.84 Belgium — Albania 3-1
17.10.84 Poland — Greece 3-1
31.10.84 Poland — Albania 2-2
19.12.84 Greece — Belgium 0-0
22.12.84 Albania — Belgium 2-0
27. 2.85 Greece — Albania
27. 3.85 Belgium — Greece
17. 4.84 Albania — Greece
1. 5.85 Belgium — Poland
19. 5.85 Greece — Poland
30. 5.85 Albania — Poland
11. 9.85 Poland — Belgium

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Poland	1	1	0	5	3	3
Albania	1	1	1	5	5	3
Belgium	1	1	1	3	3	3
Greece	0	1	1	1	3	1

Group 2 (West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Portugal, Malta)

23. 5.84 Sweden — Malta 4-0
12. 9.84 Sweden — Portugal 0-1
14.10.84 Portugal — Czecho 2-1
17.10.84 W. Germany — Sweden 2-0
31.10.84 Czecho — Malta 4-0
14.11.84 Portugal — Sweden 1-3
16.12.84 Malta — W.Germany 2-3
10. 2.85 Malta — Portugal
24. 2.85 Portugal — W.Germany
27. 3.85 W.Germany — Malta
20/21.4.85 Malta — Czecho
1. 5.85 Czecho — W.Germany
5. 6.85 Sweden — Czecho
25. 9.85 Sweden — W.Germany
25. 9.85 Czecho — Portugal
12.10.85 Portugal — Malta
16.10.85 Czecho — Sweden
16.10.85 W.Germany — Portugal
16/17.11.85 W.Germany — Czecho
17.11.85 Malta — Sweden

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Sweden	2	0	2	7	4	4
W.Germany	2	0	0	5	2	4
Portugal	2	0	1	4	4	4
Czechoslovakia	1	0	1	5	2	2
Malta	0	0	3	2	11	0

Group 3 (England, Northern Ireland, Rumania, Turkey, Finland)

27. 5.84 Finland — N.Ireland 1-0
12. 984 N.Ireland — Rumania 3-2
17.10.84 England — Finland 5-0
31.10.84 Turkey — Finland 1-2
14.11.84 N.Ireland — Finland 2-1
14.11.84 Turkey — England 0-8
27. 2.85 N.Ireland — England
3. 4.85 Rumania — Turkey
1. 5.85 N. Ireland — Turkey
1. 5.85 Rumania — England
22. 5.85 Finland — England
6. 6.85 Finland — Rumania
28. 8.85 Rumania — Finland
11. 9.85 Turkey — N.Ireland
11. 9.85 England — Rumania
25. 9.85 Finland — Turkey
16.10.85 Rumania — N.Ireland
16.10.85 England — Turkey
13.11.85 England — N.Ireland
14.11.85 Turkey — Rumania

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
England	2	0	0	13	0	4
N.Ireland	2	0	1	5	4	4
Finland	2	0	2	4	8	4
Rumania	0	0	1	2	3	0
Turkey	0	0	2	1	10	0

Group 4 (France, Yugoslavia, E.Germany, Bulgaria, Luxenbourg)

29. 9.84 Yugoslavia — Bulgaria 0-0
13.10.84 Luxembourg — France 0-4
20.10.84 E.Germany — Yugoslavia 2-3
17.11.84 Luxembourg—E.Germany 0-5
21.11.84 France — Bulgaria 1-0
5.12.84 Bulgaria — Luxembourg 4-0
8.12.84 France — E.Germany 2-0
27. 3.85 Yugoslavia — Luxembourg
3. 4.85 Yugoslavia — France
6. 4.85 Bulgaria — E.Germany
1. 5.85 Luxembourg — Yugoslavia
2. 5.85 Bulgaria — France
18. 5.85 E.Germany — Luxembourg
1. 6.85 Bulgaria — Yugoslavia
11. 9.85 E.Germany — France
25. 9.85 Luxembourg — Bulgaria
28. 9.85 Yugoslavia — E.Germany
30.10.85 France — Luxembourg
16.11.85 France — Yugoslavia
16.11.85 E.Germany — Bulgaria

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
France	3	0	0	7	0	6
Bulgaria	1	1	1	4	1	3
Yugoslavia	1	1	0	3	2	3
E.Germany	1	0	2	7	5	2
Luxembourg	0	0	3	0	13	0

Group 5 (Austria, Hungary, Holland, Cyprus)

2. 5.84 Cyprus — Austria 1-2
26. 9.84 Hungary — Austria 3-1
17.10.84 Holland — Hungary 1-2
14.11.84 Austria — Holland 1-0
17.11.84 Cyprus — Hungary 1-2
23.12.84 Cyrpus — Holland 0-1
27. 2.85 Holland — Cyprus
3. 4.85 Hungary — Cyrpus
17. 4.85 Austria — Hungary
1. 5.85 Holland — Austria
14. 5.85 Austia — Cyprus
14. 5.85 Hungary — Holland

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hungary	3	0	0	7	3	6
Austria	2	0	1	4	4	4
Holland	1	0	2	2	3	2
Cyrpus	0	0	3	2	5	0

Group 6 (Sov Union, Denmark, Rep Ireland, Switzerland, Norway)

12. 9.84 Rep Ireland — Sov Union 1-0
12. 9.84 Norway — Switzerland 0-1
26. 9.84 Denmark — Norway 1-0
10.10.84 Norway — Sov Union 1-1
17.10.84 Switzerland — Denmark 1-0
17.10.84 Norway — Rep Ireland 1-0
14.11.84 Denmark — Rep Ireland 3-0
17. 4.85 Switzerland — Sov Union
1. 5.85 Rep Ireland — Norway
2. 5.85 Sov Union — Switzerland
2. 6.85 Rep Ireland — Switzerland
5. 6.85 Denmark — Sov Union
11. 9.85 Switzerland — Rep Ireland
25. 9.85 Sov Union — Denmark
9.10.85 Denmark — Switzerland
16.10.85 Norway — Denmark
16.10.85 Sov Union — Rep Ireland
30.10.85 Sov Union — Norway
13.11.85 Switzerland — Norway
13.11.85 Rep Ireland — Denmark

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Denmark	2	0	1	4	1	1
Switzerland	2	0	0	2	0	4
Norway	1	1	2	2	3	3
Rep Ireland	1	0	2	1	4	2
Sov Union	0	1	1	1	2	1

Group 7 (Spain, Scotland, Wales, Iceland)

12. 9.84 Iceland — Wales 1-0
17.10.84 Spain — Wales 3-0
17.10.84 Scotland — Iceland 3-0
14.11.84 Scotland — Spain 3-1
14.11.84 Wales — Iceland 2-1
27. 2.85 Spain — Scotland
27. 3.85 Scotland — Wales
30. 4.85 Wales — Spain
28. 5.85 Iceland — Scotland
12. 6.85 Iceland — Spain
10. 9.85 Wales — Scotland
25. 9.85 Spain — Iceland

	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Scotland	2	0	0	6	1	4
Spain	1	0	1	4	3	2
Iceland	1	0	2	2	5	2
Wales	1	0	2	2	5	2

Note: Runners-up of European Groups 1 and 5 to play-off home and away to decide one team for finals; runners-up of European Group 7 to play home and away against winners of Oceania/Israel group for one place in finals.

CONCACAF

Group 1:
29. 7.84 El Salvador—Puerto Rico 5-0
5. 8.84 Puerto Rico—El Salvador 0-3
16. 9.84 Neth.Antilles — USA 0-0
6.10.84 USA — Neth.Antilles 4-0
Canada walkover — Jamaica

Group 2:
15. 6.84 Panama — Honduras 0-3
24. 6.84 Honduras — Panama 1-0
(Honduras 4-0 on aggregate)
Costa Rica walkover — Barbados

Group 3:
5. 8.84 Antigua — Haiti 0-3
18. 8.84 Haiti — Antigua 0-1
15. 8.84 Surinam — Guyana 1-0
29. 8.84 Guyana — Surinam 1-1
Trinidad/Tobago walkover — Grenada

Second Round

Group 1:
24. 2.85 El Salvador — Surinam
27. 2.85 Surinam — El Salvador
3. 3.85 Honduras — Surinam
7. 3.85 Surinam — Honduras
10. 3.85 El Salvador — Honduras
14. 3.85 Honduras — El Salvador

Group 2:
24. 4.85 Costa Rica — Trinidad/Tobago
28. 4.85 Trinidad/Tobago — Costa Rica
15. 5.85 US — Trinidad/Tobago
19. 5.85 Trinidad/Tobago — US
26. 5.85 Costa Rica — US
31. 5.85 US — Costa Rica

Group 3:
13. 4.85 Canada — Hali
20. 4.85 Canada — Guatemala
26. 4.85 Haiti — Guatemala
5. 5.85 Guatemala — Canada
8. 5.85 Haiti — Canada
15. 5.85 Guatemala — Canada

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1 (Argentina, Columbia, Peru, Venezuela)
26. 5.85 Colombia — Peru
26. 5.85 Venezuela — Argentina
2. 6.85 Colombia — Argentina
2. 6.85 Venezuela — Peru
9. 6.85 Peru — Colombia
9. 6.85 Argentina — Venezuela
16. 6.85 Peru — Venezuela
16. 6.85 Argentina — Colombia
23. 6.85 Venezuela — Colombia
23. 6.85 Peru — Argentina
30. 6.85 Colombia — Venezuela
30. 6.85 Argentina — Peru

Group 2 (Chile, Ecuador, Uruguay)
3. 3.85 Ecuador — Chile
10. 3.85 Uruguay — Ecuador
17. 3.85 Chile — Ecuador
24. 3.85 Chile — Uruguay
31. 3.85 Ecuador — Uruguay
7. 4.85 Uruguay — Chile

Group 3 (Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay)
26. 5.85 Bolivia — Paraguay
2. 6.85 Bolivia — Brazil
9. 6.85 Paraguay — Bolivia
16. 6.85 Brazil — Paraguay
30. 6.85 Brazil — Bolivia

Note: All group winners qualify for the finals, plus the winner of a play-off tournament arranged thus:

Runners-up Gp 3 — Third Gp 1

Third Gp 1 — Runners-up Gp 3

Runners-up Gp 2 — Runners-up Gp 1

Runners-up Gp 1 — Runners-up Gp 2

Winners of these two pairings to play-off home and away.

AFRICA

1st Round
28. 8.84 Egypt — Zimbabwe 1-0
30. 9.84 Zimbabwe — Egypt 1-1
Egypt 2-1 on agg
13.10.84 Kenya — Ethiopia 2-1
28.10.84 Ethiopia — Kenya 3-3
Kenva 5-4 on agg
15. 7.84 Mauritius — Malawi 0-1
28. 7.84 Malawi — Mauritius 4-0
Malawi 5-0 on agg
29. 7.84 Zambia — Uganda 3-0
25. 8.84 Uganda — Zambia 1-0
Zambia 3-1 on agg
13.10.84 Tanzania — Sudan 1-1
27.10.84 Sudan — Tanzania 0-0
Sudan on away goals: 1-1 agg
30. 6.84 Sierra Leone — Morocco 0-1
15. 7.84 Morocco — Sierra Leone 4-0
Morocco 5-0 on agg
28.10.84 Benin — Tunisia 0-2
11.11.84 Tunisia — Benin 4-0
Tunisia 6-0 on agg
21.10.84 Ivory Coast — Gambia 4-0
4.11.84 Gambia — Ivory Coast 3-2
Ivory Coast 6-3 on agg
20.10.84 Nigeria — Liberia 3-0
3.11.84 Liberia — Nigeria 0-1
Nigeria 4-0 on agg
1. 7.84 Angola — Senegal 1-0
15. 7.84 Senegal — Angola 1-0
Angola 5-4 pens: 1-1 agg

2nd Round
Draw: Zambia v Cameroon — Morocco v Malawi — Angola v Algeria — Kenya v Nigeria — Egypt v Madagascar — Guinea v Tunisia — Sudan v Libya — Ivory Coast v Ghana.

3rd Round
To be played between June 1 and July 31.

4th Round
To be played between Sept 1 and Nov 15.

OCEANIA

3. 9.85 Israel — Taiwan
8. 9.85 Taiwan — Israel (in Israel)
21. 9.85 New Zealand — Australia
5.10.85 New Zealand — Taiwan
8.10.85 Israel — Australia
12.10.85 Taiwan — New Zealand (in New Zealand)
20.10.85 Australia — Israel
23.10.85 Australia — Taiwan
26.10.85 New Zealand — Israel
27.10.85 Taiwan — Australia (in Australia)
3.11.85 Australia — New Zealand
10.11.85 Israel — New Zealand

ASIA

First round

Group 1:
Sub-Group A: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman
22. 3.85 UAE — Oman
29. 3.85 Oman — Saudi Arabia
5. 4.85 Saudi Arabia — UAE
12. 4.85 Oman — UAE
19. 4.85 Saudi Arabia — Oman
26. 4.85 UAE — Saudi Arabia

Sub-Group B: Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar, Jordan
15. 3.85 Jordan — Qatar
15. 3.85 Iraq — Lebanon
22. 3.85 Qatar — Lebanon
22. 3.85 Jordan — Iraq
29. 3.85 Jordan — Lebanon
29. 3.85 Iraq — Qatar
12. 4.85 Qatar — Jordan
14. 4.85 Lebanon — Iraq
19. 4.85 Iraq — Jordan
21. 4.85 Lebanon — Qatar
3. 5.85 Qatar — Iraq
5. 5.85 Lebanon — Jordan

Group 2:
Sub-Group A: Kuwait, Yemen AR, Syria
22. 3.85 Syria — Kuwait
29. 3.85 Yemen AR — Syria
5. 4.85 Kuwait — Yemen AR
12. 4.85 Kuwait — Syria
19. 4.85 Syria — Yemen AR
26. 4.85 Syria — Yemen AR
26. 4.85 Yemen AR — Kuwait

Sub-Group B: Bahrain, Iran, Yemen PDR, Dates to be fixed.

Group 3:
Sub-Group A: Malaysia, Nepal, Korea Republic
2. 3.85 Nepal — Korea Rep
10. 3.85 Malaysia — Korea Rep
16. 3.85 Nepal — Malaysia
31. 3.85 Malaysia — Nepal
6. 4.85 Korea Rep — Malaysia

Sub-Group B: Thailand, India, Bangaldesh, Indonesia
15. 3.85 Indonesia — Thailand
18. 3.85 Indonesia — Bangladesh
21. 3.85 Indonesia — India
23. 3.85 Thailand — Bangladesh
26. 3.85 Thailand — India
29. 3.85 Thailand — Indonesia
30. 3.85 Bangladesh — India
2. 4.85 Bangladesh — Indonesia
5. 4.85 Bangladesh — Thailand
6. 4.85 India — Indonesia
9. 4.85 India — Thailand
12. 4.85 India — Bangladesh

Group 4:
Sub-Group A: China PR, Hong Kong, Macau, Brunei
17. 2.85 Macau — Brunei
17. 2.85 Hong Kong — China PR
20. 2.85 Macau — China PR
23. 2.85 Hong Kong — Brunei
26. 2.85 China PR — Brunei
1. 3.85 Brunei — China PR
6. 4.85 Brunei — Hong Kong
13. 4.85 Brunei — Macau
28. 4.85 Macau — Hong Kong
4. 5.85 China PR — Macau
19. 5.85 China PR — Hong Kong

Sub-Group B: Japan, Korea DPR, Singapore
19. 1.85 Singapore — DPR Korea
23. 2.85 Singapore — Japan
21. 3.85 Japan — DPR Korea
30. 4.85 DPR Korea — Japan
18. 5.85 Japan — Singapore
25. 5.85 DPR Korea — Singapore

Second round

1 July to 31 August 1985: Cup system (knock-out). Home and away matches to decide the four group winners:

Winner 1A v Winner 1B
Winner 2A v Winner 2B
Winner 3A v Winner 3B
Winner 4A v Winner 4B

Third round

1 October to 15 November 1985: Cup system (knock-out). Home and away matches to decide the two teams qualifying for the Final Competition 1986 in Mexico:

Winner Group 1 v Winner Group 2
Winner Group 3 v Winner Group 4

OVERSEAS RESULTS

GREECE

Egaleo 1 Apollon Kalamarias 0, Apollon Athens 2 Ofi 0, Aris 3 Paok 0, Doxa 2 Larisa 2, Ethnikos 3 Pierikos 1, Iraklis 1 Aek 0, Panathinaikos 4 Panionios 1, Pamachaiki 3 Olympiakos 1

Paok	12	3	2	29	14	27
Panathinaikos	10	4	3	38	17	24
Aek	8	6	3	32	19	22
Olympiakos	10	2	5	27	13	22
Iraklis	10	2	5	27	17	22
Panionios	7	7	3	21	14	21

WEST GERMANY

Waldnof Mannheim 3 Karlsruhe 0, Bayer Uerdingen 3 Werder Bremen 1, Bayern Munich 3 Arminia Bielefeld 3, Stuttgart 5 Kaiserslautern 0, Fortuna Duesseldorf 3 Bayer Leverkusen 2, Einteacht Frankfurt 1 Bechum 1, Schalke 4 Borussia Moenchengladbach 1, Hamburg 4 Borussia Dortmund 2, Cologne 1 Eintracht Brunswick 0

Bayern Munich	11	4	3	42	24	26
Cologne	11	2	5	43	33	24
Werder Bremen	8	7	3	52	31	23
Bayer Uerdingen	10	3	5	37	22	23
Moenchengladbach	8	5	5	47	34	21
Hamburg	7	7	4	34	29	21

SPAIN

Real Betis 1 Hercules 0, Real Sociedad 4 Valencia 1, Osasuma 1 Barcelona 2, Espanol 2 Sporting 2, Real Madrid 2 Athletic Bilbao 2, Real Zaragoza 4 Sevilla 1, Malaga 2 Racing 0, Real Murcia 0 Atletico Madrid 1, Elkche 1 Real Valladolid 1

Barcelona	16	8	1	49	17	38
Atletico Madrid	11	7	4	32	17	29
Real Madrid	9	9	5	27	21	27
Valencia	7	11	5	28	18	25
Real Sociedad	8	9	6	29	21	25
Sporting	6	13	4	20	18	25
Sevilla	8	9	6	21	21	25

HOLLAND

Nac Breda 1 Feyenoord Rotterdam 3, Psv Eindhoven 3 Go EAgles DEventer 1, Pec Zwolle 0 Fortuna Sittard 2, Haarlem 2 Den Bosch 1, Volendam 0 Groningen 3, Roda JC Kerkrade 3 Utracht 0, Twente Enschede 2 Az '67 Alkmaar 2, Mvv Maastricht 1 Ajax Amsterdam 3, Sparta Rotterdam 4 Excelsior Rotterdam 0

Psv Eindhoven	11	6	0	50-17	28
Ajax Amsterdam	13	2	1	50-20	28
Feyenoord R'dam	11	2	3	47-23	24
Groningen	9	5	3	34-18	23
Twente Enschede	8	4	5	33-29	20

FRANCE

Bordeaux 3 Brest 0, Bastia 1 Nantes 1, Auxerre 3 Lille 0, Tours 0 Toulon 1, Lens 0 Toulouse 0, Rouen 2 Laval 0, Racing Paris 2 Strasbourg 2, Marseilles 3 Paris-S.G. 1, Sochaux 1 Monaco 2, Metz 2 Nancy 2.

Bordeaux	16	5	2	43	17	37
Nantes	15	4	4	38	20	34
Auxerre	11	8	4	36	20	30
Toulon	13	3	7	31	24	29
Metz	11	5	7	30	33	27

SCOTLAND

Draw for the Scottish FA fourth round (matches to be played on Saturday, February 16):

Ayr v Cowdenbeath r St. Mirre , STranraer or Stanhousemuir or Queen or South v Dundee United or Hibernians, Rangers v St. Johnstone or Dundee, Celtic v Inverness Thistle or Kilmarnock, Meadowbank Thistle v Motherwell, Raith or Clyde v Aberdeen, Brechin v Hearts, Forfar or Clydebank v Airdrieonians or Falkirk.

ENGLAND

Leading goal scorers:

DIVISION ONE: Kerry Dixon (Chelsea) 28, Graeme Sharp (Everton) 21, Gary Bannister (Queens Park Rangers) 21, Mark Falco (Tottenham) 21

DIVISION TWO: John Aldridge (Oxford) 22, Billy Hamilton (Oxford) 17, Paul Wilkinson (Grimsey) 17.

ENGLISH LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Arsenal 2 Coventry 1, Aston Villa 2 Ipswich 1, Everton 4 Watford 0, Leicester 1 Chelsea 1, Luton 2 Tottenham 2, Manchester United 2 West Bromwich 0, Norwich 0 Nottingham Forest 1, Queen's Park Rangers 0 Southampton 4, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Liverpool 1, Sunderland 1 Stoke 0, West Ham 1 Newcastle 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	25	16	4	5	57	29	52
Tottenham	25	14	6	5	51	27	48
Man Utd	25	13	5	7	48	30	44
Arsenal	25	13	4	8	46	32	43
Southampton	26	12	7	7	34	28	43
Sheff Wed	25	11	9	5	40	25	42
Liverpool	25	10	9	6	34	23	39
Notts Forest	24	12	3	9	37	34	39
Chelsea	25	9	10	6	41	30	37
Norwich	26	10	6	10	31	35	36
WBA	26	10	5	11	37	38	35
Aston Villa	25	9	7	9	36	39	34
West Ham	24	8	8	8	31	35	32
QPR	26	7	10	9	32	43	31
Leicester	25	8	6	11	43	46	30
Watford	24	7	8	9	45	46	29
Sunderland	25	8	5	12	30	36	29
Newcastle	25	7	8	10	38	50	29
Coventry	26	7	4	15	27	47	25
Ipswich	24	5	7	12	22	35	22
Luton	24	5	7	12	29	45	22
Stoke	25	2	6	17	17	'53	12

DIVISION TWO

Cardiff 2 Middlesbrough 1, Carlisle 0 Oxford 1, Crystal Palace 1 Manchester City 2, Fulham 2 Brighton 0, Grimsby 0 Sheffield United 2, Huddersfield 0 Birmingham 1, Notts County 1 Shrewsbury 3, Oldham 1 Leeds 1, Portsmouth 0 Charlton 1, Wimbledon 1 Blackburn 1, Wolverhampton 0 Barnsley 1.

Oxford	22	15	4	3	52	18	49
Blackburn	25	14	7	4	48	24	49
Man City	26	14	7	5	42	21	49
Birmingham	24	15	4	5	34	21	49
Portsmouth	25	11	9	5	39	33	42
Leeds	25	12	5	8	46	30	41
Barnsley	23	10	9	4	26	15	39
Fulham	25	12	3	10	45	44	39
Shrewsbury	25	10	8	7	46	37	38
Grimsby	25	11	4	10	47	42	37
Huddersfield	25	11	4	10	33	36	37
Brighton	24	10	6	8	24	19	36
Wimbledon	25	9	5	11	43	52	32
Sheff Utd	26	6	10	10	39	42	28
Carlisle	24	8	4	12	24	35	28
Charlton	25	7	6	12	32	37	27
Oldham	24	7	5	12	26	44	26
Middlesbrough	25	6	6	13	29	40	24
Crystal Palace	23	5	8	10	28	36	23
Wolves	26	6	5	15	30	52	23
Notts County	26	4	5	17	22	52	17
Cardiff	24	4	4	16	27	52	16

DIVISION THREE

Bolton 3 Doncaster 1, Bournemouth 1 Bristol Rovers 0, Bradford 4 Orient 1, Brentford 2 Cambridge 0, Bristol City 1 Walsall 2, Burnley 7 Rotherham 0, Gillingham 1 Swansea 1, Lincoln 0 Derby 0, Millwall 2 Newport 0, Preston 1 Plymouth 2, Reading 4 Hull 2, York 2 Wigan 0.

Bradford	26	17	5	4	44	21	56
Gillingham	25	14	4	7	46	39	46
Hull	25	12	9	4	41	27	45
Bournemouth	28	13	6	9	31	22	45
Rotherham	26	13	5	8	36	31	44
Millwall	25	12	7	6	41	28	43
Bristol Rov	26	12	6	8	41	32	42
Reading	26	12	5	9	42	40	41
York	25	12	4	9	45	34	40
Bristol Cty	25	11	6	8	40	32	39
Derby Cty	26	11	6	9	40	34	39
Bolton	27	11	3	13	45	37	36
Walsall	24	9	9	6	30	27	36
Wigan	26	9	9	8	30	33	36
Doncaster	25	10	4	11	41	40	34
Brentford	26	9	7	10	32	37	34
Newport	26	8	8	10	32	35	32
Plymouth	25	7	7	11	38	46	28
Lincoln	24	6	9	9	28	26	27
Burnley	24	6	7	11	37	40	25
Orient	26	7	3	16	28	48	24
Preston	25	6	4	15	31	59	22
Swansea	26	5	5	16	28	51	20
Cambridge	25	3	4	18	20	48	13

DIVISION FOUR

Chester 0 Blackpool 0, Chesterfield 0 Bury 1, Darlington 1 Aldershot 1, Peterborough 1 Torquay 0, Port Vale 3 Hereford 1, Rochdale 2 Tranmere 1, Swindon 1 Mansfield 0, Colchester 4 Northampton 1, Crewe 2 Hartlepool 0, Exeter 2 Southend 1, Halifax 1 Scunthorpe 2, Stockport 2 Wrexham 2.

Bury	26	16	5	5	43	23	53
Chesterfield	26	14	8	4	42	25	50
Blackpool	26	14	7	5	41	24	49
Hereford	25	14	6	5	40	20	48
Peterborough	27	14	5	8	38	31	47
Colchester	26	13	7	6	55	42	46
Darlington	23	12	9	2	32	16	45
Tranmere	26	13	1	12	47	41	40
Crewe	26	11	5	10	36	37	38
Swindon	26	11	5	10	35	36	38
Port Vale	26	9	8	9	37	35	35
Hartlepool	25	9	8	8	30	32	35
Mansfield	24	8	8	8	19	16	32
Scunthorpe	23	8	7	8	35	31	31
Southend	27	7	7	13	39	59	28
Aldershot	25	7	6	12	32	39	27
Stockport	23	7	6	10	31	39	27
Exeter	25	6	8	11	32	44	26
Chester	25	6	7	12	28	37	25
Rochdale	23	6	7	10	23	32	25
Northampton	26	7	2	17	34	49	23
Halifax	23	7	2	14	21	37	23
Torquay	26	4	8	14	24	42	20
Wrexham	24	5	4	15	38	45	19

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Dumbarton 0 Aberdeen 2, Dundee United 2 Hibernian 0, Hearts v Dundee playing Sunday (British time), Rangers 2 Morton 0, St Mirren 0 Celtic 2.

Aberdeen	25	19	3	3	59	17	41
Celtic	22	14	5	3	50	20	33
Rangers	25	10	10	5	33	23	30
Dundee Utd	23	12	4	7	40	25	28
St Mirren	24	11	3	10	29	36	25
Hearts	23	10	2	11	29	36	22
Dundee	22	6	5	11	29	34	17
Dumbarton	24	5	6	13	25	39	16
Hibernian	25	5	5	15	23	44	15
Morton	23	4	1	18	21	64	9

DIVISION ONE

Ayr 1 Meadowbank 1, Clydebank 0 Brechin 2, East Fife 3 Airdrieonians 1, Forfar 1 Clyde 1, Hamilton 0 Falkirk 0, Partick 1 Kilmarnock 0, St. Johnstone 0 Motherwell 1.

Clydebank	23	12	6	5	36	24	30
Hamilton	26	12	6	8	33	31	30
Motherwell	25	12	5	8	38	29	29
Airdrie	23	12	4	7	43	28	28
Forfar	24	10	8	6	41	29	28
East Fife	26	9	9	8	43	35	27
Falkirk	24	11	4	9	48	44	26
Brechin	25	11	4	10	36	37	26
Clyde	25	8	9	8	35	34	25
Ayr	23	7	7	9	29	35	21
Partick	25	7	6	12	30	40	20
Kilmarnock	25	7	6	12	23	42	20
St Johnstone	24	7	3	14	36	46	17
Meadowbank	26	4	9	13	32	49	17

DIVISION TWO

Albion 1 Montrose 4, Arbroath 0 Stenhousemuir 0, Berwick 0 Queen of South 0, Cowdenbeath 5 East Stirling 1, Queen's Park 4 Dunfermline 1, Raith 1 Alloa 2, Stirling 2 Stranraer 2.

Alloa	24	14	7	3	40	18	35
Montrose	23	15	3	5	36	24	33
Dunfermline	22	10	7	5	36	23	27
Cowdenbeath	22	10	5	7	42	26	25
Stranraer	22	9	5	8	35	34	23
Stenhsemuir	22	8	7	7	24	28	23
Queens Park	24	9	4	11	34	37	22
Raith	22	8	5	9	33	33	21
Stirling	22	5	10	7	34	29	20
Berwick	22	5	9	8	23	24	19
Q O' Sth	22	5	8	9	25	32	18
Arbroath	24	6	6	12	22	42	18
E Stirling	21	3	8	10	24	38	14
Albion	20	6	2	12	20	40	14

SCOTTISH FA CUP

Second round replay: Spartans 1 Inverness Thistle 2 (Inverness at home to Kilmarnock in third round).

NORTHERN IRISH LEAGUE

Ballymena 1 Ards 3, Bangor 1 Portadown 1, Carrick 1 Linfield 4, Cliftonville 1 Newry 1, Distillery 3 Crusaders 2, Glenavon 1 Coleraine 2, Glentoran 6, Larne 0.

These are Europe's most capped players

Record internationals in Europe, according to "International Football Book" No.26 (Souvenir Press, $19.95), up to April, 1984:

AUSTRALIA: 92 caps (1950-'62) **Gerhard Hannapil** half back, born 9.7.1929

BELGIUM: 81 caps (1960-74) **Paul van Himst,** forward, born 2.10.1943

BULGARIA: 96 caps (1967-77) **Khristo Boney,** midfield/forward, born 3.12.1947

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: 89 caps (1971-82) **Zdenek Nehoda,** winger, born 2.9.1952

DENMARK: 75 caps (1968-81) **Per Roetved,** centre back, 27.1.1949

EAST GERMANY: 98 caps (1969-83) **Juergen Streich,** forward, 14.4.1951

EIRE: 60 caps (1959-79) **Johny Giles,** midfield/forward, 6.1.1940

ENGLAND: 108 caps (1962-73) **Bobby Moore,** centre back, 12.4.1941

FRANCE: 65 caps (1971-85) **Marius Tresor,** centre back, 15.10.1950

GREECE: 61 caps (1964-78) **Mimis Papaiouannou,** winger, 17.11.1942

HUNGARY: 100 caps (1949-62) **Josef Bozsik,** half back, 28.11.1925

ITALY: 112 caps (1968-83) **Dino Zoff,** goalkeeper, 28.2.1942

HOLLAND: 83 caps (1969-83) **Ruud Krol,** centre back, 24.3.1949

NORTHERN IRELAND: 103 caps (1963-84) **Pat Jennings,** goalkeeper, 12.6.1945

POLAND: 103 (1971-82) **Grzegorz Lato,** winger, 8.4.1950

PORTUGAL: 66 caps (1971-84) **Manuel Tamagnini Nene,** winger, 20.12.1949

ROMANIA: 76 caps (1976-84) **Ladislao Bolonj,** midfield/forward, 22.1.1952

SCOTLAND: 93 caps (1971-84) **Kenny Dalglish,** forward, 4.3.1951

SOVIET UNION: 91 caps (1961-71) **Albert Shertemev,** centre back, 20.6.1941

SPAIN: 62 caps (1978-84) **Luis-Miguel Arconada,** goalkeeper, 26.6.1954

SWEDEN: 115 caps (1964-79) **Bjorn Nordqvist,** centre back, 6.10.1942

SWITZERLAND: 80 caps (1930-43) **Severino Minelli,** right back, 6.9.1909

WALES: 68 caps (1950-66) **Ivor Allchurch,** forward, 16.10.1929

WEST GERMANY: 103 caps (1965-77) **Franz Beckenbauer,** centre back, 11.9.1945

YUGOSLAVIA: 85 caps (1964-78) **Dragan Dzajic,** winger, 30.5.1946

INTERNATIONAL MATCH DETAILS

Israel 2 (Malmilian 32,60), Malta 1 (Muscat 21) in tel Aviv, friendly, HT: 1-1. Att. 2,000

Malta: Bonello — Aquilina, Borg (Grixti 46), Scicluna, Hiolland — Buttigieg, Alfred Azzopardi, Vella (Gatt 52), Degiorgio — Leonard FArrugia, Muscat (Em. Farrugia 52)

DECEMBER 5

WC Euro qual gp 4 — Bulgaria 4 (Sirakov 8, Velitchkov 30, Mladenov 65, Dimitrov 70), Luxembourg 0 in Sofia HT: 2-0. Att 15,000. Ref: Vessarps (Gr). Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Pl. Nikolov, Arabov, Al. Markov (Getov 67), G Dimitrov, Zdoavkov, Gochey (Mladenov 59), Sirakov, Velitchkov, Spassov, Pashev.

Luxembourg: Van Rijswik — Schonkert, Sheuer, Weis, Patry, Meunier, Girres, Hellers, Reiter (Bossi 67), Dresch, Malget (Hoscheid 78).

Greece 2 Anastopoulos 50 pen and 87) Rumania 1 (Mateut 61) in Athens, friendly HT: 0-0. Att: 5,000.

Greece: Sarganis — Xanthopoulos, Manolas, Kirastas, Karulias — Alavantos, Semertsidis (Mihos), Antoniou (Papaioannou), Kostikos (Saravakos) — Anastopoulos, Mitropoulos.

Rumania: Moraru — Rednic, Andone, Iorgulescu, Munteanu II — Mateut, Boloni (Zare), Klein (Orac), Dragnea (Lacatus) — Augustin (Gabor), Hagi.

DECEMBER 8

WC Eruo gp 4 — FRance 2 Stopyrs 32, Anziani 89), East Germany 0 in Paris. HT: 1-0 Att: 43,174 (receipts 285,000 pounds) Ref: Casarin (It).

France: Bats — Bibard, Bossis, Amoros — Giresse, Tigana, Fernandez, Platini — Stopyra (Anziani 84), Bellone.

E Germany: Muller — Trautmann, Stahmann, Dorner, Doschner — Liebers, Troppa, Stubner, Steinbach (Richter 75) — Minge (Glowatzky 79), Thom.

Italy 2 (Altobelli 77, Di Gennaro 89), Poland 0 in Rescara, friendly HT: 0-0 Att: 32,000 Ref: Valentine (Scot).

Italy: Tancredi — Bergomi, Righetti (Tricella 46), Vieochowod, Cabrini — Bagni (Dossena 61), Tardelli, Di Gennaro — Conti (Fanna 68), Altobelli (Serena 78), Paolo Rossi.

Poland: Kaziniierski — Kubicki, Zmuda, Wdowczyk, Wojcicki — Matysik, Wijas (Prusik 78), Komornicki, Boniek — Palasz, Okonski (Ostrowski 53)

DECEMBER 16

WC Euro qual gp 2 — Malta 2 (Busuttil 11, Ray Xuereb 87)

West Germany 3 (Foster 43, K Allofs 69,85) in Valessa. HT: 1-1 Att: 25,000. Ref: Petrovic (Yug).

Malta: Mifsud — Aquilina, G Xuereb, Holland (Alf. Azzopardi 12), Sciciuna — Busuttil, Woods, Vella, R. Xuereb — Muscat (Gatt 61), Degiorgio

W Germany: Schumacher — K Forster, Herget, Jakobs (Thon 46) — Matthaus, Rahn, Brehme, Briegel — K. Rummenigge, Voller, K. Allofs.

DECEMBER 17

Egypt 0, Norway 1 (Davidsen 31) in Cairo, friendly. HT: 0-1. Att: 1,000. Ref: Muhammad Hosem (Egypt).

Norway: Thorstvedt — Han Hermann Henriksen, Kojedal, Hareide (Per Henriksen 68), Mordt, Seland (Bjamoy 84), Davidsen, Oswald, Ehil Johansen, Vaadal (Skoghelm 55), Berg.

Egypt: Soubier — Saleh, Sedki, Abdelgani, Abdelhalim, Mayhoub, Abou Zeid, Omar, Ramadane, Shehata, Nabil.

Hungary beats Germany

West Germany showed a little too much compassion as it lost 1-0 to Hungary in Hamburg in a charity match for victims of lat October's Hamburg harbor disaster.

Franz Beckenbauer's team, turning in a performance as dreary as the drizzly weather, offered a gift of a goal to the Hungarians early in the secons half to settle the match.

Just 75 seconds from the restart they allowed Hungarian full-back Zoltan Peter complete freedom on the left of the penalty area and goalkeeper Toni Schumacher let the defender's shot to the far post skid over his outstretched arms as he dived.

The slippery pitch and the fact that both sides were playing in their winter breaks offered some excuse for the dismal display.

But Hungary, fresh from three weeks' training in the milder Spanish climate, was clearly more imaginative and fully deserved its victory.

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England, Italy the big winners

England's stunning 9-1 win over Malta and Italy's big 6-1 win over Scotland highlighted the opening games in the Medibank Private World Cup for under 14's which kicked off at Egan Lee Reserve last weekend.

Organisers of the competition received a jolt with the withdrawals of Vietnam and Ireland but the draw has been revamped to include byes in the groups in which these teams were to play.

Last weekend's results:
Group "A": England 9 Malta 1, Rest of the World 0 Chile 9.
Group "B": Greece 1 Yugoslavia 1, Hispania bye.
Group "C": Scotland 1 Italy 6, Lebanon 3 Holland 0.
Group "D": Australia 6 Rest of the World 1 (played as a friendly). Hungary 0 Turkey 6 (subject to protest by Hungary).

This Saturday's games:
Group "A": England v Rest of the World.
Group "B": Yugoslavia v Hispania.
Group "C": Scotland v Lebanon.
Group "D": Australia v Hungary.

This Sunday's games:
Group "A": Malta v Chile
Group "B": Greece bye.
Group "C": Italy v Holland
Group "D": Turkey bye.

• Victoria MLA Peter Spyker, with an England player, kicks off the inaugural Medibank Private Junior World Cup for under 14's. Referee Ron Dixon is in the background. Pictures by ROD McCLEOD.

Mr. Spyker addresses the crowd during the opening ceremony of the Medibank Private Junior World Cup. Other guests pictured, from left: Knox City councillors Hayes, Wallace, Blaze and Mayor Draper, organiser Tony Kennedy and VSF secretary George Wallace.

Think again, Channel 0

KAT'S CORNER

with PETER KATHOLOS

What a major blow it is to Australian soccer that 0/28 has cut back its soccer content. It's also a hard move to fathom for soccer is the one thing that unites our multicultural society.

And I thought that the Special Broadcasting Service, of which 0/28 is the flagship, was set up as a long overdue government acknowledgement of the needs of the various ethnic groups which make up this nation.

Why then, does soccer get the chop?

And what does it signify to the other codes in Australia? That Australian soccer is on the decline?

Let's hope that someone can pull a few strings and make the people in charge of programming at 0/28 realise the improtance attached to soccer by almost every ethnic group in Australia.

Bocce interests a specific ethnic group, as does gaelic football or hurling. Soccer speaks a common language.

Big year for soccer

Well, we're just about to get our 1985 soccer extravaganza underway. We've got World Youth Cup qualifying games, World Cup qualifying games, a big tournament in June featuring clubs from Greece, Italy and England and, of course, the NSL season kicks off next month.

That's certainly a heavy schedule but let's all get right behind the young Socceroos and the seniors and hope like hell that they fight every inch of the way and make it to their respective World Cup finals.

Money trouble

Clubs around the world are suffering serious cash flow problems. Australian clubs are no different.

It's imperative that our clubs budget properly and take much more care over their selection of directors.

You've simply got to get together a team of professionals. If you're on the administrative side of things, then you've got to have a top administrative background. Your public relations man and your marketing man must have successful business backgrounds in such areas.

Hopefully, your coach can coach and your players can play too!

My club, Olympic, is having all sorts of money problems but negotiations are underway right now to alleviate the situation and Olympic hopes to clinch a big sponsorship deal which will ease its financial worries.

For a change, Olympic has set a firm budget for its dealings this year and will break even of its 1985 operations.

On the playing side of things, Jim Patikas has joined Sydney Croatia for $25,000.

Jim Ziras is back after spending a year on loan to APIA. Jim and our coach Manfred Schaefer have settled their differences and I'm expecting big things from Jim this year.

Also, we've got Arthur Svingos back. Arthur had a cruciate ligament operation and has been out of soccer for a year and a half. He's made a remarkable recovery though and he'll be pushing hard for a first team-spot.

Graham Jennings, Peter Raskopoulos and Marshall Soper haven't signed for this season yet but I reckon that they'll stay, even though St George is supposed to be interested in Marshall.

All in all, I predict a big season for Olympic. We'll be right up there, just like we were last year.

Terry who?

Terry Patlis, the forgotten man at Olympic, is back from trials in Greece with Olympiakos and Ethnikos.

Terry had a great time over there and before he left, Olympiakos offered him a contract, which is tremendous news for him. There's every chance that Terry will be heading off to Greece this July.

He'll make it over there, too, provided his confidence is up. Terry's that kind of player. He's fast, he's strong and he's skilful, but if his confidence isn't high you don't see the best of him. So let's hope that Terry gets his old confidence back.

O'Donnell on transfer

Footscray J.U.S.T. midfielder Brian O'Donnell, 26, is on the transfer list at his own request.

He played NSL soccer with Blacktown, APIA and Western Suburbs before joining J.U.S.T. In between he was back home in England, playing for Bournemouth. He also has played for English clubs Bristol Rovers and Torquay.

O'Donnell, 26, is available for $7500 — the maximum transfer fee in his contract.

He can be contacted on (03) 763 8861 and is willing to move to Sydney if the right offer comes along.

VIVA ITALIA!

with ROCKY DI ZIO

Si chiama Margaritis il destino della Juve?

La Buffalo Gold Cup, la competizione precampionato in notturna del Victoria, e' stata una doccia fredda per la Juventus di Melburne ed i suoi tifosi che quest'anno avevano buoni motivi di attendersi grandi cose.

Dopo tre partite la formazione bianconera ha subito una netta sconfitta per mano dell'Heidelberg e collezionato due scadenti pareggi con le due italiane della Lega Statale, Fawkner e Morwell.

Due punti in tre partite, e il gioco mediocre messo in mostra, sono troppo poco per una squadra che sulla carta avrebbe dovuto qualificarsi per le semifinali con irrisoria facilita' sia per la consistenza del suo parco giocatori, sia per la relativa facilita' del girone in cui era capitata.

Vuol dire questo che le aspettative per la stagione 1985 erano superiori alle reali capacita' della squadra. Tutt'altro!

La squadra che l'anno scorso era finita quinta nel girone meridionale della Lega Nazionale (e che avrebbe potuto fare molto di piu' se non fosse stata decimata da una serie incredibile di infortuni) quest'anno e' ancora molto piu' forte con l'inserimento di due ottimi giocatori come Peter Lewis e Paul Wade ed il recupero di Fabio Incantalupo e puo' percio' sicuramente aspirare a battersi per le prime posizioni in campionato ... purche' si risolva il grave problema di direzione tecnica che si e' creato dalla fine del campionato scorso.

Con troppa leggerezza i dirigenti della Juventus avevano lasciato andare l'allenatore John Margaritis, uno dei migliori tecnici sulla scena calcistica australiana, che era riuscito in due anni a sollevare il rendimento della squadra ben al di sopra delle sue capcaita' tecniche.

La Juventus di Margaritis aveva dimostrato di avere uno schema di gioco abbastanza reddizio e piacevole da guardare ed il tecnico era riuscito a coprire le molte falle che si erano aperte nello schieramento bianconero con indovinati spostamenti e con una impeccabile disciplina in campo.

Inoltre, cosa di importanza fondamentale, Margaritis aveva saldamente in mano il timone della squadra poiche' tutti i giocatori avevano la massima fiducia nella sua leadership ed accettavano senza alcuna discussione le sue istruzioni e i suoi schemi.

Non che margaritis non abbia commesso i suoi errori, come del resto li commette ogni allenatore di questo mondo specialmente alla luce del senno di poi; pero' era raro che egli commettesse lo stesso errore piu' di una volta poiche' ha un grande senso di percezione e di autcritica ed e' percio' capace di correre subito air ripari. Molte partite cominciate male erano state raddrizzate e vinte in extremis da sapienti cambiamenti di uomini e di tattica fatte da Margaritis.

Qualsiasi comitato che aveva ambizioni di voler seriamente battersi per lo scudetto quest'anno avrebbe dovuto fare tutto il possibile per mantenere Margaritis al suo posto. Non solo per gli indubbi meriti dell'allenatore, ma anche perche' dopo due anni di riscostruzione della squadra era ovvio che solo Margaritis avrebbe potuto farle fare un notevole salto di qualita' con piccoli ritocchi.

Invece, come ormai e' pur troppo storia, alla fine del campionato dell'anno scorso quando il tecnico manifesto' il desiderio di andare in Europa per alcuni mesi non si fece abbastanza per riconfermarlo e spingerlo ad accorciare di qualche settimana la sua vacanza e tornare in tempo per riprendere le redini della squadra.

Dopo le critiche rivolte a Margaritis da dirigenti e pubblico durante il periodo di crisi attraversato dalla squadra a meta' del campionato dell'anno scorso, era ovvio che il tecnico pretendeva una insistenza maggiore da parte del comitato a prova che godesse ancora della massima fiducia. Purtroppo quell'insistenza non ci fu e la Juventus dovette andare in cerca di un nuovo allenatore per finire con l'assumere Tommy Traynor che l'anno prima aveva brevemente allenato il mediocre George Cross ed era stato licenziato durante il campionato.

La breve esperienza al George Cross non aveva dato modo di poter rendersi conto delle reali capacita' di Trynor quindi egli era una grande incognita che, in mancanza di meglio, valeva pur la pena di provare.

Purtroppo le cose non sono andate per il verso giusto e non solo per colpa di Trynor. A causa di un certo dissesto amministrativo risultato dal cambio di guardia in alcune posizioni chiave del comitato e dal fatto che quest'anno la stagione calcistica e' stata anticipata di molto, il malcapitato nuovo allenatore si e' trovato a dover iniziare la coppa notturna senza un libero (Dowie in vacanza e Brown invischiato nelle pratiche di residenza di alcuni giocatori) e con molti altri giocatori a corto di preparazione poiche' appena rientrati dalle vacanze.

I risultati percio' hanno deluso le grandi aspettative del comitato e dei tifosi e distrutto quasi completamente il morale dell'allenatore e dei giocatori. A questo punto e' ancora impossibile giudicare Trynor in quanto a capacita' di tecnico. Ma purtroppo per lui, la situazione creatasi alla Juventus e' tale che non gli permettera' mai di rifarsi: contestato dal pubblico, con una squadra che sta andando alla deriva e con la sua autorita' ridotta a poco piu' di zero, il tecnico scozzese non ha ormai piu' alcuna speranza di risalire la china. E' un peccato, ma purtroppo questa e' la realta' dei fatti.

Anche se a malincuore e' percio' arrivato il momento di prendere una decisione inevitabile e probabilmente costosa: esonerare Trynor e cercare di riportare alla Juventus Margaritis.

Noi non abbiamo mai creduto alla facile soluzione di problemi technici facendo dell'allenatore il caprio espiatorio. Non lo abbiamo creduto l'anno scorso quando si voleva la testa di Margaritis perche' la squadra senza molti dei suoi titolari infortunati aveva imbroccato un periodo negativo; non l'avevamo creduto nemmeno due anni prima quando un gruppo di tifosi aveva addirittura organizzato una petizione al comitato per far licenziare Tony Boggi. In tutte e due questi casi la squadra si riprese finendo i rispettivi campionati in crescendo.

L'unica caso in cui crediamo che l'esonero dell'allenatore sia necessario, seppur spiacevole, e' quando il tecnico ha perso la fiducia in se stesso e l'autorita' sui giocatori. Sfortunatamente questo e' proprio il caso di Trynor alla Juventus.

Andare avanti sperando che le cose migliorino e' ormai una pia illusione. Ci sarebbe soltanto una minima possibilita' che il comitato potesse ancora riuscire a ridare fiducia allo sfortunato Trynor e a ristabilire la sua autorita' sulla squadra, ma per far cio' l'intero comitato dovrebbe essere convintissimo delle qualita' del tecnico, ma per quello che ci risulta alcuni dirigenti non hanno piu' nemmeno un pizzico di fiducia in lui.

Possiamo soltanto augurarci che il comitato sappia agire con tempestivita' e decisione per risolvere questa piccola crisi che se dovesse protrarsi metterebbe seriamente a repentaglio il futuro della squadra per il campionato.

In quanto a Margaritis lo consideriamo il miglior tecnico per la Juventus, non solo per le sue capacita' ma perche' in questo momento nessuno piu' di lui e' capace di individuare i piccoli problemi nel macchinario Juventus che lui stesso ha costruito durante i due anni precedenti. A lui bastera una piccola stretta di vite da una parte, un po' d'olio dall'altra per far rendere la Juventus al massimo delle sue possibilita'. Qualsiasi altro allenatore invece dovrebbe cominciare con nuovi esperimenti, nuovi montaggi e smontaggi che potrebbero anche non dare il risultato sperato e che comunque rifarebbero della Juventus 1985 un'altra formazione sperimentale e in fase di assestamento.

Perche' ricominciare ad esperimentare dopo tanti esperimenti fatti (e soluzioni trovate) nel passato?

A differenza della Juventus, il Morwell e il Fawkner si stanno comportando egregiamente in questa coppa notturna. Il primo e' gia' quasi sicuro della qualificazione per le semifinali e il secondo ha dimostrato di essere capace di tener testa agli squadroni con un paio di vecchie volpi ed una schiera di giovani di talento.

Goalie on move

Experienced Albion Rovers goalkeeper Wally Bryden is looking for a new club and there's just $250 on the 28-year-old's head.

Bryden made 20 State League appearances for Albion last year. He's a former Altona City junior and played in the firsts with Keilor City and Keilor Austria.

Bryden can be contacted at work on 653 5549 or at home on 397 8290.

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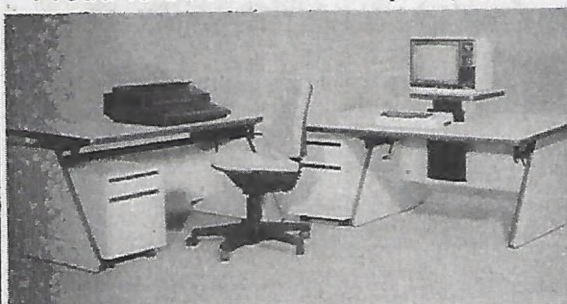

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FORZA JUVE!

BRITISH SOCCER

Stoke seems doomed, Woodcock storms out

From ROBERT PHILIP

In the week Sir Stanley Matthews celebrated his 70th birthday, the sight of his beloved Stoke City languishing at the bottom of the English First Division has recalled some poignant memories.

The great man, now living in Canada, still follows Stoke's fortunes with nterest, though the news of late has been bleak. Last weekend's 1-0 defeat at Sunderland left Stoke 10 points adrift of second from bottom Luton and, barring mircales, Matthews will have to scan the Second Division results in his newspaper next season.

But it may encourage present manager Bill Sprey to know that Stoke was in a similar plight 24 years ago when it scraped together 2,500 pounds sterling (about $A3,500 Aust) to buy Matthews, then 46, back from Blackpool.

Within 18 months, Stoke, struggling in the lower reaches of the Second Division in front of attendances of 6,000, had clinched promotion as crowds rose to over 40,000.

Stoke needs a football miracle of similar proportions if it is to survive its present predicament.

A crippling overdraft of 500,000 pounds sterling (about $A700,000) prevents Asprey from buying his way out of trouble and he is faced with the prospect of moving to sell England winger Mark Chamberlain and top-scorer Ian Painter if relegation becomes a reality.

It is of little consolation to Stoke's dwindling band of fans that four players who have left the club in recent seasons Adrian Heath, Paul Bracewell, Lee Chapman and Garth Crooks are all involved in the battle at the other end of the First Division table.

Heath curently recovering from a broken leg, and Bracewell have played major roles in the Everton success story, while Chapman and Crooks could lift championshp winners' medals with Sheffield Wednesday and Totenham respectively.

Even without the services of Heath, who was injured just when he was about to force his way into the England squad, Everton have the personnel to emulate Tottenham (1961) and Arsenal (1971) by achieving the league and cup double.

An impresive 4-0 home win over Watford left Everton, the F.A. Cup holder and joint favourite with Liverpool in this year's competition, four points clear at the top.

Watford, beaten 2-0 by Everton in the Cup Final at Wembley last year, fought a successful rearguard action in the first-half but was simply overrun after the interval.

Gary Stevens struck two splendid goals within the space of 60 seconds after an hour, and Irish midfielder Kevin Sheedy and Trevor Steven raised the tally to four as Everton went on the rampage.

Crooks, whose goals have done much to keep Tottenham within striking distance of Everton, failed to get his name on the scoresheet at Luton where the Londoners were somewhat fortunate to escape with a 2-2 draw.

Brian Stein shot Luton ahead shortly after the interval and the score remained unchanged until an astonishing three-goal burst in the last five minutes.

Mark Falco equalised for Tottenham in the 85th minute, Nigerian winger Chukwuemeka Nwajiobi restored Luton's advantage straight from the restart and Graham Roberts made it 2-2 in injury time.

Though Aberdeen still is missing the inventive touches of Little Gordon Strachan, who scored both goals in Manchester United's 2-0 win over West Bromwich which kept United in third place, the Scottish champion is strong favourite to retain its title.

Goals by Billy Stark, signed from St. Miren as Strachan's replacement, and Eric Black, gave Abedeen a 2-0 win at Dumbarton and it remains a comfortable eight points clear of Glasgow Celtic, which has three games in hand.

By coincidence, all four Scottish Premier League matches ended 2-0.

Scotland striker Maurice Johnston took his tally for the season to 10 in Celtic's win at St. Mirren, while Derek Johnstone celebrated his return to Glasgow Rangers after two years at Chelsea by scoring in the victory over Morton.

Let's head back down south.

Arsenal Manager Don Howe reacted to the previous week's F.A. Cup defeat at third division York by dropping England striker Tony Woodcock and relegating Charlie Nicholas to the substitute's bench.

Nicholas made a dramatic entrance after an hour when he laid on the winning goal for Ian Allinson but reports suggest Woodcock missed the celebrations as he had stormed out of Highbury before the kick-off.

Howe refused to confirm or deny the rumour surrounding Woodcock but admitted: "I have to find out what he did and why . . . although I think I know why he did it.

"I left out two highly skilful players because they're not consistent enough, it's as simple as that. You can stay with them for so long, but there comes a time . . ."

However, Howe must have been impressed by Nicholas' attitude.

The Scotland striker entered the fray to deafening roars from the Highbury crowd and Coventry manager Don MacKay was in no doubt his appearance was crucial.

JUGOSLOVENSKA SCENA

PORAZ KOJI DAJE OHRABRENJE

U trecem kolu Nocnog turnira za "Buffalo zlatan kup" Heidelberg United je pobedio J.U.S.T. sa 2:0, ali obrnut rezultat bio bi daleko pravedniji. "Plavi" su imali vise od igre, izveli zrelije kombinacije i sanse, ali nisu imali sportske srece. Neiskoriscen jedanaesterac u 11. minutu bio je presudan. Milan Stojilovic je izveo udarac sa bele tacke idealno za golmane, specijalno za Jeff Olvera, koji je postao ekspert za penale.

JUST je pojacao svoju navalu sa Bill LAzopoulos iz Western Suburbsa, koga je donekle preplatio. Zanimljivo je da JUST ne zna da se pogadja. Plati sto drugi traze, a nikad ne dobije svoju cenu. Mozda, zato sto se uvek kupuje i prodaje u nuzdi.

Ipak, navijaci su zadovoljni pored dva poraza i jedne neresene utakmice u Nocnom kupu. Svi se slazu da JUSTima igrace od kojih se moze sastaviti dobar tim. Potreban je samo trud i mozda nabavka jos par iskusnih igraca. Za Branislava Jovica ocekuje se ispisnica iz Joguslavije, za koju nema problema ali se sporo resava. Ukoliko Gary McDowell zaista napusti "plavi" tabor, Jovic moze biti dostojna zamena.

JUST nema nikakva izglede u Nocnom kupu i zato moze da iskoristi dve zadnje utakmice za probu i uigravanje.

Trener Ceda Cirkovic ima strpljenja, iako nije lako voditi tim, koji gubi utakmice. Sve se to dogadja u trenutku kada ima i druge probleme. Nedavno je otvorio radnju sa sportskim rekvisitama "Sports Extra" u 66 Bridge Road, Richmond. Na otvaranju se skupila sportska elita ovog grada da mu pozeli srecu na novom poslu, koji ustvari nije nov — jer je sport ustvara njegov zivot.

Uoci utakmice sa Heidelberg/Aleksandrom prvi tim JUST-a odigrao je trening utakmicu protiv Lalor/Sloge u Thomastownu. Slogu trenira Janko Kalincev, koji je za kratko vreme dosta postigao, iako jos nije nabavio sve igrace na koje je bacio oko. Ceda Cirkovic je, takodje, mogao da vidi slabosti svog tima. Istina, popravio se rad u sredini, sanse se lako stvaraju, sli efikasnost je jos uvek bolna tacka. JUST je ovu utakmicu dobio sa 4:2 (1:1). Sloga je imala dve polusanse i obe je iskoristila (Tome Tasevski i Ljubce Kotevski), dok je JUST jedva savladao 4 puta neiskusnog golmana, a imao je 15 do 20 zlatnih prilika za gol. Golove su postigli: Tom Karic 2, Milan Stojilovic i Bill Lazopoulos.

MAKEDONIJA FAVORIT

Jedan od najlepsih susreta Nocnog kupa bio je dvoboj izmedju Makedonije i Croatije, koji se savrsio bez golova. Makedonija je zasluzila pobedu, medjutim golman Croatije Zeljko Govic bio je keroj ove utakmice i pravo otkrovenje na pocetku sezone. Pored dva odlicna golmana, sa kojima ne moze da nadje zajednicki jezik, dobila je i treceg.

Medjutim, tim koji zasluzuje paznju i cestitke, svakako je Makedonija. Zoran Ilioski je sazreo u pravog dirigenta i inspiratora ofansivne igre. Pored toga, tim je uigran i dopunjen sa mladim snagama od kojih se mnogo moze da ocekuje.

U svojoj grupi Makedonija ima jos jednu tezu utakmicu protiv Green Gully Ajaksa, sto ne bi smela biti velika prepreka za osvanjanje prvog mesta.

Tokom ove nedelje igra se 4. kolo Nocnog kupa, koje ce odluciti prva dva mesta u obe grupe.

U sredu uvece sastaju se Polonia — Box Hill i Hellas — Ajax.

Program za petak uveca, 8. februara: Heidelberg Utd. — Fawkner i JUST — Juventus.

U subotu uvece 9. februara sastaju se: Hellas — Box Hill i Makedonija — Green Gully.

GOSTOVANJE U SIDNEJU

Kombinovani sastav JUSTa gostovao je 26. i 27. januara u Sidneju, gde je odigrao prijateljsku utakmicu protiv pojacanog Jugala, koga je posle izvanredne igre savladao sa 1:0 (1:0). Gol je postigao Ariel Perez Reigosa posle lepe akcije koju su izveli Zdravko Lujic i Vlatko Belic.

JUST je igrao u sledecem sastavu: Zoran Vlajnic, Tom Karic, Emil Petrov, Branislav Jovic, Radovan Barjaktarevic, Dragan Janjic (Zoran Pasoski), Ernie Tapai, Ariel Reigosa, Vlatko Belic, Milan Stojilovic, Zdravko Lujic.

Ovom Prilikom odigrao je oprostajnu utakmicu Laza Majinski, osnivac, igrac i predsednic sidnejskog kluba "Jedinstvo", pored toga veliki navijac JUSTa, koji nije propustio ni jednu utakmicu koju su "plavi" igrali u Sidneju za prvenstvo Nacionalne lige.

ZVEZDA I BOSNA NA TURNIRU U MONASHU

Na turniru malog fudbala na Monash Univerzitetu igrali su Central City/C.ZVEZDA i Richmond Utd./BOSA.

Zvezda je postigla sledece rezultate u "A" grupi:

Pobedila je Holland Park parforfe sa 3:0.

Drugi susret: Zvezda — Mulgrave 2:0. Strelci: Nikola Popovic iz penala i Miki Cvetkovski.

Zvezda — Keysborough 0:0.

Svezda — Young Pioneers 3:0. Strelci: Nikola Radunovic 2 i Miki Cvetkovski iz penala.

U ponedeljak je nastavljen turnir. Svezda je odigrala u grupnom takmicenju jos jednu utakmicu protiv Chelsea/Hajduka, koga je savladala sa 2:0. Strelci Petar Krnic i Nikola Popovic iz penala.

Susrete sa Parkomore/Plavim Dunavom i Nunawadingom Zvezda je doliba parforfe bez borbe.

U cetvrtfinalu malog turnira SPLIT je eliminisao Zvezdu sa 1:0.

Prosle subote Zvezda je odigrala prijatelsku utamicu protiv Waverley Citya na Como Parku. Rezerve: Waverley City — Zvezda 4:1. Prvi timovi: Waverley City — Zvezda 3:1. Pocasni gol postigao je Nikola Radunovic.

Veceras, u sredu 6. februara Zvezda igra projateljski utakmicu protiv Sandringhama na Como Parku.

RICHMOND/BOSNA je postigla sledece rezultate u malom fudbalu na Monash Univerzitetu:

Bosa — North Dandenong 1:1. Strelac Viktor Kostromin.

Bosna — Nunawading City 0:1.

Bosna — Endeavour Hills 1:0. Strelac Viktor Kostromin.

Bosna — Carlton/Mladost 3:0 (parforfe).

Bosna — Mulgrave 2:1. Strelci: Zarko Stanimirov i Viktor Kostromin.

Bosna — Doncaster Rovers 1:2. Strelac Zarko Stanimirov.

Bosna — Dingley 3:0 (parforfe)

Bosna je ispala iz daljeg takmicenja zbog slabije golrazlike. U novu sezonu Bozna ulazi sa donekle izmenjenom upravom. Predsednik kluba je M. T[illegible]ic, sekretar M. Marcelan, menadzer prvog tima B. Gavran, menadzer drugog tima M. Omerovic, ekonom S. Cavkic, dok je za stampu odgovoran Murat Musovic.

GODISNJA SKUPSTINA

Zbog zagonetnog nestanka dosadasnjeg predsednika Zike Karica clanstvo JUSTa odrzava vanrednu skupstinu na svom igralistu u suotu 9. februara. Skupstina pocinje u 4 po podne. Na dnevom redu je izbor nove uprave.

Sutradan, 10. februara od 10 pre podne odrzava se piknik sa fudbalskim turnirom u cast Nagradnog knjizevnog konkursa "Ivo Andric". Pocetak u 10 pre podne. Sponsori turnira su MEDIBANK, Migrants Centre iz Footscraya i Amon Eng. Izletnike ce zabavljati ceo dan orkestar i pevaci iz hotela "Metropol". Zadnji put nastupa i oprasta se od publike u Melburnu popularna pevacica Milka Todorovic dok ce se sa publikom upoznati Stana Paulovic.

Na fudbalskom turniru igraju mladi tim JUSTa, Central City/C.ZVEZDA, MLADOST i verovatno BOSNA.

JUNIORSKI SVETSKI KUP

Na prvom Juniorskom svetskom fudbalskom Kupu u Knoxfieldu, Jugoslovenska selekcija ispod 14 godina igrala nereseno 1:1 protiv Grcke u subotu 2. februara. "Plavi" su poveli sa 1:0 u 20. minutu preko Mike Turcinovica, ali su par minuta kasnije Grci izjednacili zbog nepaznje citavogtima. U prvom poluvremnu Jogoslavija je igrala bolje, dok drugo poluvreme pripada Grcima.

Sastav Jugoslavije: Sasa Jankovic, Aleks Negrioski, Jadran Sango, Zoran Stojkovic, Sasa Petrovski, Zoran Mitic, Mendo Gacovski (Lasla Zima), Mike Turcinovic, Edi Kolar, Igor Fijan, David Mozina. Rezerve: Goran Krstic, Mihajlo Soldatovic, Tom Dimitrijevic, Zoran Barjaktarevic. Trener Milan Kojic, menadzer Renato Turcinovic.

ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΤΩΝ ΟΜΑΔΩΝ ΜΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΕΝΑΛΤΥ

by Manos Milios

ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑΤΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΣ;
ΠΟΙΟΙ ΟΜΩΣ ΦΤΑΙΝΕ;

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<u>ΚΑΙ ΚΑΤΙ ΣΧΕΤΙΚΟ</u>

'Ηθελα νά ξέρω ποιός άπό τήν όμάδα τών νέων τής 'Ελλάς καί πού παίζει στήν έπίθεση έχει προωθηθεί γιά τήν Α΄όμάδα.

Ποιός άραγε; 'Ετσι οί Μπράουν καί 'Ηγκαν έχουν μονοπωλήσει τήν έπίθεση τής 'Ελλάς. 'Αντίθετα ό 'Αλέξανδρος έκτός άπό τούς Πάτερσον,Στήβενσον καί Γουϊν διαθέτει τόν Τάσιο καί δύο τρείς άκόμη ταλαντούχους παίκτες καί μάλιστα έλληνες.

<u>ΟΡΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΟΧΙ Ο ΑΝΕΖΑΚΗΣ</u>

Γνωστή πλέον ή περίπτωση τού προέδρου τής 'Ελλάς Λεωνίδα 'Ανεζάκη καί δέν χρειάζεται νά έπανέλθω.

Δέν βάζει ύποψηφιότητα γιά τήν νέα σαιζόν. Θέλει νά ξεκουραστεί καί νά κυττάξει τή δουλειά του.

Ποιός θά είναι ό άντικαταστάτης του δέν ξέρουμε άλλά όπωσδήποτε τό κενό τού έκλεκτού αύτού παράγοντα δύσκολα θά καλυφθεί.

<u>ΘΑ ΥΠΑΡΞΕΙ ΣΥΝΕΧΕΙΑ;</u>

Πολλά άκούγονται γιά τήν άποχώρηση τού Λεωνίδα 'Ανεζάκη καί κάτι ψίθυροι δέν είναι καί τόσο καλοί γιά τό κυανόλευκο στρατόπεδο. Κάτι δηλαδή γύρω άπό τόν Μακέντρυ πού όπως φάνηκε έχει άδυναμία στόν 'Ανεζάκη. Καί τί θά γίνει; Κανένας δέν ξέρει.

<u>ΚΑΙ Η ΛΑΣΠΗ</u>

'Ακούσαμε κι' άλλο ώραίο: Πώς έτσι καί φύγει ό Μακέντρυ,ό νέος πρόεδρος τής 'Ελλάς (δέν λέμε όνομα)θά πάρει τόν Γιαννέλο. 'Απίστευτο καί όμως λέγεται. Καί αύτοί οί όποίοι τό λένε,είναι οί έχθροί τού 'Ανεζάκη. Γιατί άν δέν ήταν έχθροί,θά ήξεραν κάτι: Πώς ό 'Ανεζάκης δέν ήταν αύτός πού ήθελε νά σταματήσει ό Γιαννέλος άπό τήν Ελλάς άλλά άλλοι.

<u>Ο ΧΡΙΣΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ ΣΤΟΝ ΜΕΓΑ</u>

'Οπως μάς είπε ό πρόεδρος τού Μέγα Σάμ Γκουλόπουλος,ό Γιώργος Χριστόπουλος μεθαύριο Παρασκευή θά παίξει μέ τήν έλληνική όμάδα ή όποία όριστικά τόν άγοράζει άντί 18.000 δολλαρίων.

<u>ΔΙΚΑΙΑ Η ΝΙΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑ ΕΠΙ ΤΗΣ ΤΖΑΣΤ</u>

'Ολβερ ήταν καί πάλι ό συντελεστής τής νίκης τού Μέγα έπί τής Τζάστ 2-0 γιά τό νυκτερινό κύπελλο. Στό 0-0 άπέκρουσε πέναλτυ καί κράτησε τό τέρμα του άνέπαφο.

'Η έλληνική όμάδα κινήθηκε καί πάλι μέ όρεξη καί ήταν κατά διαστήματα πολύ καλή.

Πάντως στό πρώτο τέρμα πού δέχθηκε ή όμάδα τού Φουτσκραϊυ,ό διαιτητής Βένιος άν είχε δεί έγκαιρα τόν έπόπτη καί τήν σημαία του,ίσως νά είχε σταματήσει τή φάση.

Ο Πρόεδρος της Ελλάς Λεωνίδας Ανεζάκης πέτυχε στο πόστο του από κάθε πλευρά. Επί των ημερών του η κυανόλευκος κέρδισε το πρωτάθλημα Αυστραλίας, οικονομικά πηγαίνει θαυμάσια και η φιλία με το Σίδνεϋ Ολύμπικ έγινε μεγάλη. Στη φωτογραφία μας ο ηγέτης της ομάδας του Σίδνεϋ Τζιμ Πετινέλης δίνει αναμνηστική πλακέτα φιλίας στον «δικό» μας πρόεδρο κατά την διάρκεια του χορού των κυανολεύκων.

Αύτό ήταν καί τό παράπονο τών παικτών τής Τζάστ καί τού τεχνικού Σέντο Σίρκοβιτς.

<u>ΚΑΙ ΟΙ ΜΙΚΡΕΣ ΜΑΣ ΟΜΑΔΕΣ</u>

<u>ΠΑΝΕΛΛΗΝΙΟΣ:</u> Προπονείται κάθε Τρίτη καί Πέμπτη καί ώρα 6.15 μ.μ.

<u>ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ:</u> 'Αρχισαν οί έγγραφές τών Τζούνιορς καί οί γονείς τών μικρών άσσων μπορούν νά έλθουν σέ έπαφή μέ τό Δ.Σ τού συλλόγου.

<u>ΩΚΛΗ:</u> Τό 'Ωκλη ζήτάει προπονητές γιά τά Τζούνιορς. Οί ένδιαφερόμενοι νά γράφουν στό P.O BOX 169 OAKLEIGH 3166.

'Η τακτική όμάδα προπονείται κάθε Τρίτη καί Πέμπτη στό CALOOLA RESERVE μέ προπονητή τόν Τζών Κέννεντυ.

<u>ΜΑΛΒΕΡΝ ΣΙΤΥ:</u> Τό Μάλβερν Σίτυ μέ προπονητή τόν Νίκο Νίκογλου προπονείται κάθε Δευτέρα καί Τετάρτη καί ώρα 6.30 μ.μ. στό γήπεδο τού Κούγιογκ.

Πρόεδρος στό νέο Δ.Σ είναι ό Κώστας Προκοπίου.

<u>ΔΟΞΑ ΓΙΑΡΡΑΒΙΛ:</u> 'Η Δόξα Γιάρραβιλ συνεχίζει τίς προπονήσεις της στό γηπεδό της μέ τήν έπίβλεψη τού Κώτη Ξανθόπουλου. Νέοι ποδοσφαιριστές είναι εύπρόσδεκτοι.

<u>ΚΛΙΦΤΟΝ ΧΙΛ:</u> Τό Κλίφτον Χίλ άρχισε προπονήσεις καί τίς συνεχίζει κάθε Τρίτη καί Πέμπτη στό γηπεδό του καί ώρα 6.30 μ.μ.

'Ολοι οί παίκτες οί βασικοί άρχισαν μέ ξέχωρο ένθουσιασμό μέ έπικεφαλής τόν κάπταιν Πέτρο Πετρόπουλο.

<u>ΗΣΤ ΡΙΤΣΜΟΝΤ:</u> 'Ο σύλλογος τού 'Ηστ Ρίτσμοντ έχει γενική συνέλευση στίς 17/2 καί ώρα 2.00 μ.μ. στή λέσχη τής έλληνικής κοινότητας τού Ρίτσμοντ.

Οί προπονήσεις γίνονται κάθε Τρίτη καί Πέμπτη στίς 6.00 στό γήπεδο τού COPPIN STR.

<u>ΚΛΑΡΙΝΤΑ:</u> 'Η Κλαρίντα έχει στή λίστα τών μεταγραφών τόν τερματοφύλακα Τσάλυ Κασίμη.

Οί ένδιαφερόμενες όμάδες νά τηλεφωνήσουν στόν κ.Τζίμ 'Αποστολόπουλο.

ΑΡΧΙΣΕ ΤΟ ΤΟΥΡΝΟΥΑ ΤΩΝ ΠΑΛΑΙΜΑΧΩΝ ΜΕ...8

<u>ΕΝΣΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΕΥΕΙ ΝΑ ΣΤΑΜΑΤΗΣΕΙ</u>

Δυστυχώς άλλά ένα όμορφο τουρνουά πού πάει νά σταθεροποιηθεί καί νά γίνει θεσμός,ίσως πάρει τήν άντίθετη κατεύθυνση.

Πρόκειται γιά τό τουρνουά τών παλαιμάχων πού άρχισε άπό πέρυσι καί μέ νικήτρια τήν όμάδα τής Κλαρίντας καί τό όποίο γιά 2η φορά διοργανώνεται φέτος καί μέ τήν συμμετοχή 8 όμάδων.

Τήν περασμένη Κυριακή έγιναν στό γήπεδο τού Μορντιάλλοκ πού είναι καί ή διοργανώτρια όμάδα οί πρώτοι άγώνες τούς όποίους παρηκολούθησαν πολλοί φίλαθλοι,οί διπλοί μπορούμε νά πούμε άπό πέρυσι,μέ τήν διαφορά ότι καί οί 8 όμάδες έδειξαν μιά κάποια δυσπιστία πρός τούς άγωνιζόμενους καί κατέληξαν στίς ένστάσεις.

Σύμφωνα μέ τήν διοργανώτρια ύπάρχουν οί κανονισμοί οί όποίοι κρατήθηκαν άπό τίς όμάδες άλλά όπως πάντα θά βρεθούν τά παραθυράκια άπό τούς χαμένους γιά νά κάνουν τίς ένστάσεις.

Είναι δέ γεγονός ότι άν περάσουν όλες οί όμάδες άπό "κόσκινο" θά βρεθεί κάποιο λαθάκι πού θά έχουν κάνει. Προσπάθησαν όμως όλες νά παρουσιάσουν παλαιμάχους.

Οί ένστάσεις λοιπόν πού έγιναν τήν περασμένη Κυριακή θά κάνουν τήν ζημιά πού δέν άλλη άπό τήν άποχώρηση όμάδων καί μέ πρώτο τό Κλίφτον Χίλ πού έγινε ό στόχος τού 'Ωκλη τό όποίο έχασε 4-3.

Οί πρώτες συναντήσεις έχουν ώς έξής:
ΣΕΡΡΕΣ - ΠΕΛΟΠΑΣ 1-1
ΝΤΟΝΚΑΣΤΕΡ ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ - ΣΑΟΥΘ ΣΠΡΙΝΚΒΑΙΗΛ 1-4
ΕΡΜΗΣ ΜΟΡΝΤΙΑΛΛΟΚ - ΚΛΑΡΙΝΤΑ 3-1
ΣΑΟΥΘ ΩΚΛΗ - ΚΛΙΦΤΟΝ ΧΙΛ 3-4

Οί άγώνες τής Κυριακής (έφ'όσον γίνουν όλοι)
11.00 ΩΚΛΗ - ΣΠΡΙΝΚΒΑΙΗΛ
12.30 ΕΡΜΗΣ - ΣΕΡΡΕΣ
2.00 ΚΛΙΦΤΟΝ - ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ
3.30 ΠΕΛΟΠΑΣ - ΚΛΑΡΙΝΤΑ

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THE 1985
BUFFALO GOLD CUP

Steve Tasios
Heidelberg

Ernie Tapai
JUST

FRIDAY 8th FEBRUARY

HEIDELBERG UNITED v FAWKNER
at 7.15

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS v FOOTSCRAY JUST
at 8.40

Doug Brown
Hellas

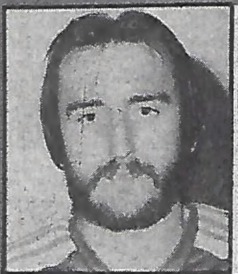
Con Opasinis
Preston

SATURDAY 9th FEBRUARY

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v BOX HILL
at 7.15

PRESTON MAKEDONIA v GREEN GULLY
at 8.40

Chris Taylor
Sunshine George Cross



Rick Lipiarski
Polonia

WEDNESDAY 13th FEBRUARY

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS v MORWELL FALCONS
at 7.15

MELBOURNE CROATIA v MARIBYRNONG POLONIA
at 8.40

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